

## Cabinet faces 'brutal' battle over spending

### Ministers seek extra £9 billion on budgets

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Senior Cabinet ministers are predicting a "brutal" battle between the Treasury and government departments over public expenditure as bids for extra spending soar more than £9 billion over existing plans amid fears of rising inflation.

The splitting of the Department of Health and Social Security, and Mr Nigel Lawson's admission that inflation is set to rise until the middle of next year have intensified the pressures on the Government as it seeks to hold spending as near as possible to the £167 bil-

lion target for 1989-90.

With mortgage rate increases today likely to intensify anxiety, the Prime Minister spoke yesterday of the "absolutely vital" need to get inflation falling again.

But the gap between the planned total spending and the bids submitted is the biggest since Mrs Thatcher came to power in 1979. Last year it was about £6 billion.

Treasury sources are already conceding that it will be impossible to keep to the £167

The City expects interest rates to stay high or rise even higher because of the outlook for inflation. The pound is likely to strengthen in foreign exchange markets as a result. Figures due this week will show a sizeable rise in official reserves last month because of Bank of England intervention to hold down sterling. 19

billion limit because of additional commitments made by the Government on the health service, mainly on nurses' pay, and of extra spending in areas where its direct control remains limited.

The overrun on local authority spending for 1988-90, at least £1 billion in the present financial year, is heading for £1.5 billion.

But Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who is preparing for his confrontations with Ministers in a few weeks, is firmly expected by government sources to take a rigorous line on the demands for extra spending.

With inflation heading towards 6 per cent, Mr Major and Mr Cecil Parkinson, who will, in the autumn, chair the arbitrating Star Chamber committee for the first time, are certain to argue that this year, more than ever, tight discipline is needed to maintain confidence in the British economy.

As the dispute between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson over exchange rates has shown, the Prime Minister's main concern is inflation. In an interview made public yesterday, Mrs Thatcher admitted that it would take "a little time" to bring down inflation.

Saying that Britain's fast growth had presented problems, Mrs Thatcher added: "Those problems are showing

in a slight rise in inflation, but we have acted very quickly by putting up the interest rates quite sharply to bring the inflation down."

"It will take a little time, but it will bring the inflation down again because that is absolutely vital."

The worry over inflation comes amid the first signs of a loss of public confidence in the Government's handling of the economy. A MORI poll for *The Sunday Times* registered a fall in economic optimism, and a halving in the past month of the Conservative lead over Labour.

Scouting difficulty ahead for the Government, Labour leaders have decided to maintain an offensive over the economy throughout August.

Mr Neil Kinnock said that as mortgage interest payments increased over the next two weeks people would be wondering what their tax cuts really amounted to. Average rises in mortgage payments of £22 a month, compared with average tax cuts of £12 a month, was nobody's idea of a good deal, he said.

Difficult negotiations are anticipated between Mr Major and Mr Kenneth Clarke, the new Secretary of State for Health, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Security, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary. Additional bids have also been submitted by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, and Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales.

Mr Hurd is pressing for additional money to meet government pledges to accelerate the prison-building programme; Mr Younger will argue that without increased expenditure Britain risks a weakening in its front-line defence capability; Mr Moore will be asking for extra funds for housing, disability and other benefits.

"Each year the Treasury says it will be hard. This year I can tell you for sure that it will be tough and brutal," a source told *The Times*.

The additional stress created by the reshuffle is already

Continued on page 18, col 7

## Thatcher leaves a church controversy behind her



The Prime Minister, with her husband Denis, right, meeting sisters aged seven and five in a Singapore shop yesterday.

## Bishops vote on women priests

By Clifford Longley and Philip Webster

The 500 Anglican bishops attending the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury will debate and vote on women bishops today, with the interest heightened by the intervention of the Prime Minister. Mrs Margaret Thatcher has surprised right-wing parliamentary colleagues, by giving her personal support for the ordination of women priests in the Anglican church.

In an interview with journalists on the eve of her departure to the Far East and Australia, the Prime Minister said: "I personally think there will be women in the priesthood and I do not myself find it at odds with the Christian doctrine, although I accept that some people do."

The Bishop of Chichester,

Mrs Thatcher, in talks yesterday in Singapore with her opposite number, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, and a radio interview to be broadcast this week in the island republic, set out to sell the economic achievements of the Government to what she sees as a previously sceptical audience of South-East Asian investors. 6

Dr Eric Kemp, who is one of the leaders of the bishops who oppose women's ordination, said yesterday he thought it would have been better if she had said nothing.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook, Conservative MP for Orpington, said yesterday he too regretted Mrs Thatcher's intervention.

He said: "I believe an institution that has gone on for 2,000 years ought not to be changed by a group of people in response to passing fashion."

Among the Lambeth Conference bishops there is certainly an overwhelming majority who agree with Mrs Thatcher in principle.

Today the bishops will vote on a resolution calling on all 27 provinces to "refrain" from consecrating women bishops in view of the further division it would cause.

The official resolution acknowledges that for some provinces to have women bishops would lead to "impairment of communion" between them. It accepts the right of provinces to do what they wish, however, and the major part of it is concerned with limiting the damage. It calls for the Archbishop of Canterbury to set up a commission which would prepare guidelines for relations within the Anglican Communion once women bishops are appointed. Conference "fudge", Page 12

## Doctors told not to co-operate on 'secret' insurance Aids tests

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The medical profession last night attacked insurance companies who are requesting doctors to carry out Aids tests without counselling patients, or letting them know the results.

Applicants may find that the first they know of a positive Aids test is when they receive a letter from the insurance company turning down their application. Doctors who carry out medical examinations for life assurance companies are being sent "do it yourself" Aids testing kits containing needles, syringes, swabs and sample bottles.

The companies are asking doctors to take the blood and send the sample to a named private laboratory which would pass the result to the insurance company.

The patient's own doctor or

the doctor undertaking the examination will not normally be notified of the results so they will be unable to break the news to the patient.

The British Medical Association is advising its members

Some people are so convinced that they have been infected with the Aids virus that despite negative blood tests, they are developing phantom symptoms of the disease and planning suicide, according to a report by London psychologists. Page 3

not to co-operate with the industry, warning that they could risk disciplinary or legal action.

The BMA is also writing to the Association of British Insurers asking them to withdraw their latest "dangerous" advice on Aids testing which

they have issued to insurance companies. The moves follow "dozens" of angry letters and telephone calls in the past few days as a new standard letter, which will be sent to all new applicants, has arrived in doctors' surgeries.

The letter which has already been sent from a number of companies including Irish Life, Co-op Insurance Services, Zurich Life, Abbey Life, Provident, Marine and General and Sun Life outlines what an HIV test is and asks patients to sign an attached consent form.

However, the BMA says the form does not constitute "informed consent" as no counselling is involved.

Patients who refuse to sign the consent form will not be given insurance.

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, Secretary to the BMA's ethical

committee said last night that the repercussions of the new policy were "too awful to contemplate".

She feared that some people would try to commit suicide if they found out they had the Aids virus, if they were not given proper counselling.

She said that the insurance company had no obligation to tell people why their applications had been turned down. Some people might be refused insurance or given a heavy loading for another reason entirely, but the applicant would probably assume that the test had been positive.

A London general practitioner who does a large amount of work for insurance companies and did not wish to be named said last night that he would refuse to do any Aids tests without fully informing the patient.

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Six people shared the £8,000 weekly prize on Saturday (see page 3) so the Portfolio Accumulator now stands at £13,000. Prices: page 22

## Burnage report indemnity

The authors of the report into the playground killing of an Asian boy by a white pupil two years ago have offered to indemnify Manchester City Council against any libel damages if it agrees to publish the report.

The chairman of the inquiry panel, Mr Ian Macdonald, QC, a London barrister, will ask Manchester education officials today if the offer has been accepted.

If not, the panel will consider publishing the report.

Mr Macdonald said last night: "The council has said on many occasions that it would publish the report if somebody would offer indemnity against damages. That is what we are now offering."

The council originally refused to publish the entire report into the killing of Ahmed Ullah, aged 13, by a white pupil at Burnage High School in 1986 after legal advice that it was defamatory.

IN PART 2

## Victory sale

Severiano Ballesteros won the Scandinavian Enterprise golf Open for the third time and announced he planned to auction his clubs. Page 32

## Degree results

Degrees from Manchester University and its Institute of Science and Technology will be published tomorrow. Oxford modern languages, Birmingham and Heriot-Watt results appear today. Page 27

## INDEX

Home News	2-5
Overseas	6-7
Business	19-23
Sport	28-32
Archaeology	13
Arts	14
Science, marriages, deaths	21
City Diary	12
Court	12
Crime in the Crime	25-26
Crosswords	16, 18
Money	24-25
Education	16
Entertainment	16
Features	9, 10, 15
Information	16
Law Report	23
Leading articles	11
Letters	11
Nature Notes	12
Obituary	12
On This Day	10
Prevention Bonds	16
Religion	12
Science Report	9
TV & Radio	17
University News	13
Weather forecasts	27
Writers	18
World	12

## Campaign for private tunnel link

By Richard Thomson

Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French Channel tunnel group, will launch this week a campaign for a £1 billion high-speed rail link between the tunnel and central London, using private sector finance.

Private financing of railway lines is already being tried with the new Heathrow-to-Paddington rail link which could form the model for the new Channel tunnel line. Mr Alastair Morton, chairman of Eurotunnel, said he assumed a privately-built line would be operated as part of the national railway network.

Eurotunnel's campaign will press for a private company to be set up to fund the line's construction and rolling stock. The two British and French construction companies involved in the Channel tunnel have already shown an interest in the new rail line.

## Iranian pledge to halt ship attacks

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Iran said yesterday it would not attack shipping in the Gulf while United Nations talks in New York on a ceasefire are in progress.

Hopes that this could lead to the release of the three British hostages in Beirut rose yesterday when it emerged that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, had sent a bishop to Lebanon.

The Right Reverend John Brown, Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf, met senior Christian leaders in Beirut in an attempt to establish the fate of four Iranians who disappeared in 1982. Tehran has said it will try to help with Christian hostages held by Muslim groups if Dr Runcie uses his influence over Iranians held by Christian militiamen.

Iran's announcement about shipping went some way towards removing a major obstacle to better Anglo-Iranian relations. The sea war has been one of the factors holding back a decision by Britain on restating its empty embassy in Tehran.

The more optimistic Anglo-Iranian outlook was reflected by Mrs Thatcher during a visit on Saturday to Oman, which faces Iran across the Strait of Hormuz.

The Prime Minister, during her talks with Sultan Qaboos in Salalah, called for a "positive attitude" to encourage Tehran to develop wider contacts with the West.

Strong indications emerged in London yesterday that the Government is ready to send a British diplomat to Tehran, but that the announcement has been delayed. The timing is thought to be linked to progress in ceasefire talks at the UN.

The association has been pressing for more than two years for a national committee composed of theologians, philosophers and laymen, as well as clinicians, to look at ethics' controversies.

The transplant experiments are due to start next month at Dulwich Hospital, south London, led by Mr Michael Bewick, the surgeon. He said yesterday he would initially take kidneys from the Royal College of Surgeons' research farm in Kent and transplant them into sheep. Experiments could also involve other animals, such as transplanting organs from a baboon into a dog.

## Husain cuts ties to 'help Palestinians'

From Ian Murray, Amman

Jordan has dismantled its legal and administrative links with the West Bank in order to help "liberate the occupied Palestinian land," King Husain said in a television broadcast here last night.

He explained why he had decided last Thursday to end a \$1.3 billion (about £764 million) development plan for the West Bank and why, on Saturday, he had dissolved the parliament, which had 30 West Bank members.

"Since there is a general conviction that the struggle to liberate the occupied Palestinian land could be enhanced by dismantling the legal and administrative links between the two banks, we have to fulfill our duty and do what is required of us," he said.

"To support the steadfastness of our brothers there today, we respond to the wish

of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and to the Arab orientation to affirm the Palestinian identity."

He hinted that Jordan's continuing presence in the West Bank was causing problems with the PLO. "We cannot continue in this state of suspension, which can neither serve Jordan nor the Palestinian cause," he said.

"We had to leave the labyrinth of fears and doubts, towards clearer horizons where mutual trust, understanding and co-operation can prevail."

He added: Jordan is not Palestine, and the independent Palestinian state will be established on the occupied Palestinian land after its liberation, God willing."

## BMA asks for ethical advice on pig transplants

By Jill Sherman

Social Services Correspondent

Guidelines on the use of animal organs for transplants should be drawn up by a national ethical committee, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

The call came after the disclosure that surgeons hope to transplant hearts and kidneys from pigs within two to five years after a breakthrough in overcoming human rejection mechanisms.

If successful, the procedure would allow access to unlimited kidneys, hearts, livers, blood vessels and other organs. The 10,000 kidney patients who need transplants could all be treated.

The association said it had no objection to the use of animal organs provided the research was approved by the local medical ethics committee and

was acceptable to society.

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The team has developed an antibody filter which removes the chemical in humans responsible for rejecting cells from other species. Other drugs can be used to stop the chemical reactivating.

Research is continuing on a slower rejection mechanism in which cells in the transplanted organ could start to react to the new host.

Mr Bewick said pig heart valves were already used in heart transplants and pig livers had been used to support people with liver failure.

However, animal rights groups called on Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to ban the transplant experiments. Animal Concern Scotland said: "The idea of breeding pigs as living organ banks owes more to sick horror fantasy than medical science."

Mr Bewick said patients would be given the option of either waiting for a human transplant, being put on kidney dialysis or having a pig transplant. The

Continued on page 18, col 7



Mr Michael Bewick: patients to be given option.

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Two die in siege house shootings

A jilted boy friend killed himself with a blast from a shotgun after fatally wounding his rival during a house siege yesterday. The gunman, Tim Steadman, aged 26, a minicab driver, broke in through the back door of the house in Brockhill Crescent, Brockley, south London. Armed police surrounded the house shortly after 6.30am as other officers cordoned off the area.

Steadman's former girl friend, Miss Lorraine Tan, aged 24, was in the house with her current boy friend, Mr Derrick Rose, aged 28, a nightclub doorman. Miss Tan, her mother, Mrs Diana Tan, aged 50, sister Selena, aged 20, and two children, Sacha, six, and one-year-old Michael, the children of Mr Rose's sister, fled the house unharmed.

Steadman fired a shot from a single-barrelled shotgun at Mr Rose. Scotland Yard said police had tried to negotiate with Steadman through a loud hailer but he refused to talk to them.

Fifteen minutes after a muffled shot was heard, police went into the house and found Steadman dead in the bath with a chest wound. Mr Rose was found in the lounge and taken to hospital, where he died later.

## Yachtsmen drowned

Two men died and a two fellow yachtsmen were believed drowned when their catamaran apparently sank in the Channel at the weekend. The bodies of two of the men were found on the Dorset coast yesterday and last night debris from the eight-metre Boatlegger was located. It is thought the catamaran, due to return to Poole, Dorset, from Cherbourg by Saturday morning, may have been run down during the night. The boat was chartered by a man from Manchester and it was understood that the others were also from the Manchester area.

## Fire destroys stables

A horsewoman yesterday said her life's work had gone up in smoke after a fire destroyed London's oldest riding stables, Miss Lilo Blum, aged 62, who has run the stables in Grosvenor Crescent Mews for 45 years, had a few days ago won a reprieve from the Duke of Westminster for the riding school which was threatened with redevelopment. Miss Blum was on holiday in Spain when the fire happened on Saturday. Two horses died in the blaze, which is thought to have been started by a workman carrying out repairs.

## Inquiry incomplete

The independent inquiry into allegations of police brutality during a demonstration outside the News International plant at Wapping on January 24 last year, the first anniversary of the company's move to east London, is nearing completion but it will be some weeks before a decision about action against any officers is made. Chief Supt David Wyrko, of Northamptonshire police, who is heading the inquiry, indicated yesterday that he would be astonished if charges are announced this week, as a report in the *Observer* claimed.

## Ferry youth arrests

Police arrested 39 youths yesterday after trouble on a cross-Channel ferry. Three van loads of officers boarded the P&O vessel, Viking Venture, when it berthed at Portsmouth after the captain radioed ahead that about forty youths from a coach party were causing problems on a crossing from Le Havre. Two youths, who were charged with theft from the ferry's duty-free shop, were bailed to appear before Portsmouth magistrates on August 30. The rest were released after questioning. A spokesman said there had been no injuries and only minor damage.

## Adair returns to Piper Alpha to cap oil wells

By Kerry Gill

Mr Red Adair, the flamboyant Texan firefighter, returns to the Piper Alpha platform today to continue his three-week struggle to bring the rig under control.

Mr Adair, aged 73, and his four-man team have succeeded in extinguishing all the well fires, but they must now attempt to cap them with concrete.

It is expected to be at least another fortnight before the grim task of retrieving the missing bodies can begin. Mr

Adair said he was keeping his fingers crossed for calm weather. Occidental Petroleum, the platform's operator, yesterday said that all Piper Alpha's wells were stable. Cement was being pumped into P1 and P21 being controlled with seawater.

Of the 167 men who lost their lives in last month's explosion, 124 are still missing. Many of the bodies are believed to be in accommodation modules which sank to the seabed after the disaster.

## How Poppy Day town is learning to live again

Today the Queen will present the MBE to Mr Gerry Burns, the chief executive of Fermanagh District Council, for his work in the aftermath of last year's Enniskillen Remembrance Day bombing. He says the award is a tribute to the whole community. PETER DAVENPORT has been back to see how the town is coping.

The war memorial opposite McNulty's cycle shop in Enniskillen is still swathed in red wreaths but now wooden hoarding hides the remains of the building where the bomb went off killing 11 people at last year's Remembrance Day ceremony.

Nine months after the tragedy there are few physical scars to remind the casual visitor. The memory of one of the most terrible days even in Northern Ireland's calendar of outrages will never be erased completely, but the people of Enniskillen are learning to live again.

The town is reviving its annual festival, to run between August 8 and 14, as a symbol to the rest of the world that they are determined to do just that.

The revival was one of the first ideas to come from a group called "Enniskillen Together" formed in the aftermath of the Remembrance Day bombing to promote community activities.

Mr Edwin Graham, the secretary of the festival committee, said yesterday: "We felt that after the bombing we had to do whatever we could to build bridges and I think now the town is ready to enjoy itself once again."

"It is essential at this stage, part of the healing process. The events of last year will never be forgotten. The festival is a way of saying we can have fun together and not worry about looking back over our shoulders at what has happened."

The festival, which will feature the first Northern Ireland busking championships as well as sports events, fancy dress parades and a vintage car rally, is being sponsored

by the Guinness brewing company. Mr Jim Lunney, chairman of the Fermanagh District Council, which has its headquarters in Enniskillen, said yesterday: "If you mention Enniskillen to anyone outside the town the first thing they always say is 'that is where they had those dreadful killings'."

"But there is much more to the town than that and we want to show that we are looking forward. "The bombing was a very traumatic event but, if anything, it brought the community closer together."

Other initiatives, too, aim to ensure that something positive is derived from the events of November last year.

An appeal fund which received donations from around the world has been closed officially with the figure standing at £656,000.

Already £50,000 has been paid to the bereaved and the injured to cover their immediate expenses. An assessment panel, consisting of a psychiatrist, a surgeon and a businessman, is examining in detail

the cases of all 120 people who were affected by the bombing. They will assess the level of suffering and by September hope to have paid out 80 per cent of the appeal donations.

Yesterday Mr Gerry Burns, the chief executive of Fermanagh District Council, said that a further £75,000 was being used to establish the Enniskillen Community Trust which will be administered by seven Roman Catholics and seven Protestants to assist local projects.

Discussions are also under way about a permanent memorial to the dead.

It is acknowledged that much of the sympathy received was generated not just by the killings, on a day devoted to remembering the dead, but also by the spirit of forgiveness displayed by Mr Gordon Wilson, a businessman, whose daughter was one of the 11 people killed in the blast.

Mr Wilson was involved, on behalf of the local Chamber of Commerce, in the discussions to revive the summer festival.

The spirit of the town which he

came to epitomize has been recognized in the "Spirit of Enniskillen" bursary, with funds from the Government of about £150,000 open to 30 teenagers in the province, with two places reserved for local youngsters.

There are also plans for the town, which has a population of 15,000 made up almost equally of Protestants and Roman Catholics, to have its first integrated primary school.

Of those injured in the explosion only one, Mr Ronnie Hill, the former principle of the local high school, remains in hospital. He suffered critical injuries.

In the widespread condemnation of the IRA that came after the Enniskillen tragedy there were hopes that the outrage would prove to be a watershed in the catalogue of killings, especially of innocent civilians.

That it was a vain hope was in evidence last week when three members of the Hanna family, all innocent victims of an IRA bomb, were buried at Hillsborough.

## Marks UK assets 'safe' if convicted over drugs

By Tony Dawe and Howard Foster

The substantial assets in Britain of Howard Marks, who was arrested last week by American drugs agents for allegedly running one of the world's biggest cannabis-smuggling businesses, will escape seizure by the British authorities if he is found guilty.

Although Scotland Yard and customs officers are continuing to trace Mr Marks's assets in this country, they will be unable to touch any if he is convicted. His arrest in Majorca and probable trial in the United States puts him beyond the reach of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act, which was designed to strip drugs dealers of their gains.

The Government intends to make agreements with the US and Spain so that assets can be seized wherever drug dealers are charged, but negotiations have only just begun and Marks will escape the legislation because it will not be retrospective.

The Act, which came into force amid a welter of publicity in January last year, enables drugs investigators to seek court orders freezing the assets of drugs dealers once they have been charged in England and Wales and to seek their confiscation if the prosecution is successful.

Pressure for international agreements to be reached quickly is certain to build up in the months to come, especially if Mr Marks's likely trial reveals details of his assets in Britain.

They are known to include a flat in Chelsea and a home in the country. Mr Marks is also the director of a London-based travel company, which was raided by police last week.

Officers are studying records, which were seized for clues, about the way in which the man, described by US agents as "one of the top four drug barons in the world", allegedly accumulated profits.

Detectives from Scotland Yard's drug squad and officers from the Customs drugs financial investigation branch are studying the records of other companies thought to have been used by Mr Marks for investing his money.

Meanwhile, Mr Marks apparently received an anonymous tip-off six months ago that he was under investigation, it was disclosed yesterday.

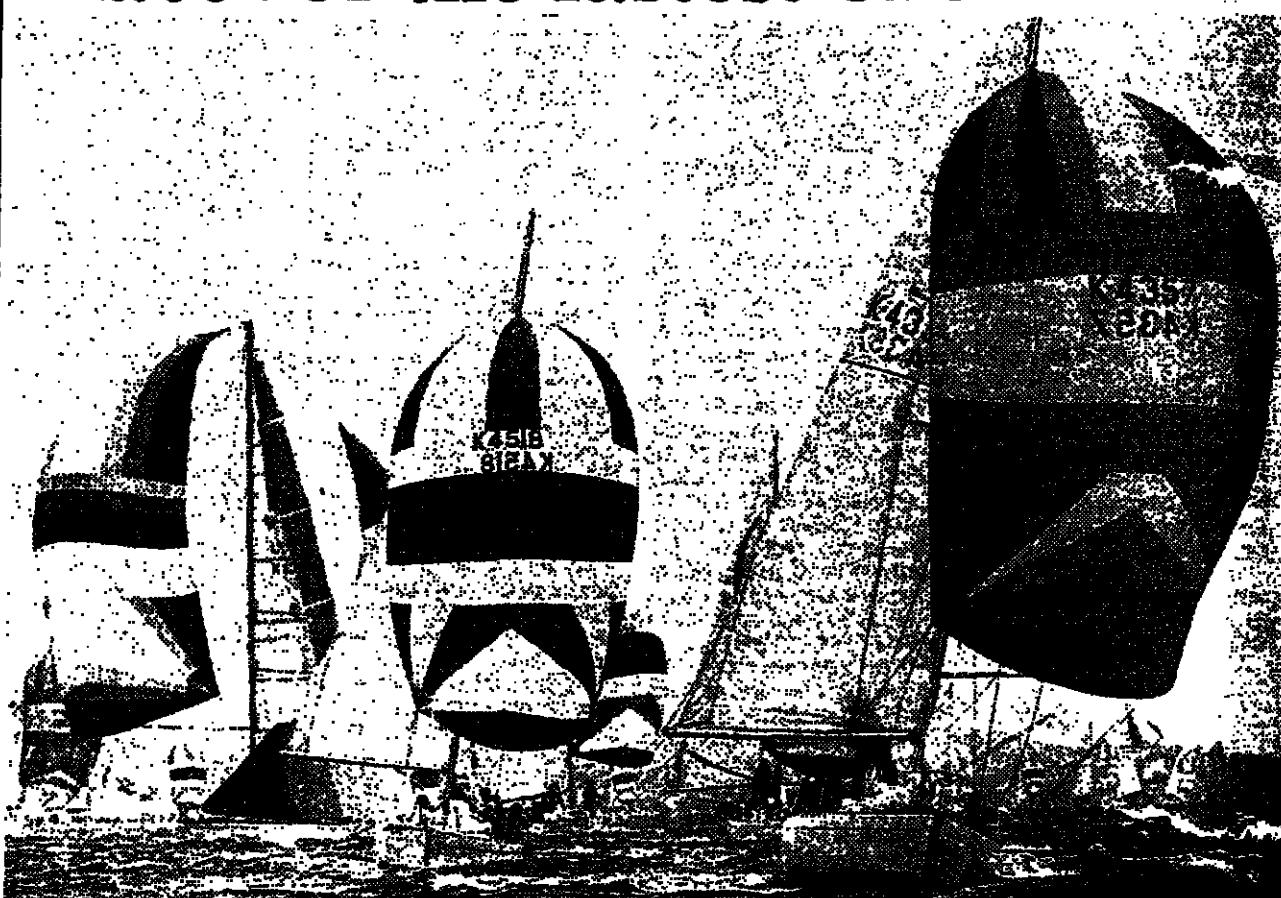
He was believed to have received a telephone call from an American in January offering him the entire dossier held by the drug enforcement agency about him for £250,000. Mr Marks is understood to have ordered a lawyer to try to establish the strength of the American case against him and eventually to have received a 338-page file obtained from records available under the US Freedom of Information Act.

According to sources on Majorca, where Mr Marks has lived for some years with his wife and three children, he then ordered a thorough search for potential safe havens for himself.

Last night, his British solicitor, Mr Michael Katz, said that Mr Marks, who was moved out of Palma jail last Friday, was in prison in Barcelona and that he was being held incommunicado.

Mr Katz has sent letters of protest about the interrogation and treatment of Mr Marks to several government agencies.

## Race for the fastest of the fleet



The Ivory Moon, spinnaker straining, leads more than sixty other Sigma 33-class yachts in the Campion Lander challenge trophy on the Solent yesterday, one of 200 races in this year's Cowes Week. The regatta, sponsored for the fourth year running by Sandhurst Marketing, the office equipment company, was first held in 1826 (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

## ITV chiefs to lobby Hurd over levy

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, will be warned today that his plans to increase levy payments made by ITV companies to the Government threaten to devastate prestige programming and profits.

The new levy, involving the tax being based on net advertising revenue — instead of profits, would mean the "big five" of Thames, Central, Granada, LWT and Yorkshire, facing a 100 per cent increase by 1990.

In some cases the forecast levy would outstrip profits made by companies during the past financial year.

Sir Ian Trethowan, chairman of Thames, Mr Christopher Bland, chairman of LWT Holdings, Mr David Justham, Central chairman, and Sir Derek Palmer, chairman of Yorkshire, will try to dissuade Mr Hurd from the changes when they visit the Home Office today. Mr Bland said yesterday that the

TV-am paid back £500,000 to advertisers during the first three months of the technicians dispute which seriously affected programming, it has confirmed. But senior managers deny the breakfast-time television station is continuing rebates and reduced rates. A spokesman said: "After the dispute began in November last year the programmes for three months were not our normal ones and so we did make repayments. It was a voluntary gesture we have stopped."

proposals, combined with corporation tax payments, would mean incremental profits being taxed between 60 and 90 per cent.

The Prime Minister and Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, insist the change will increase the cost effectiveness and efficiency of ITV companies. However, commercial television chiefs argue the stimulus for cost

reduction is already in place and working.

The "extraordinarily high" levy payments proposed for the big five, who make the bulk of ITV's network programmes, were "unreasonable", Mr Bland said.

They would make future commercial decisions difficult.

He added: "It is hardly likely to stimulate any major pieces of drama that don't have a strong chance of rating success. It would be impossible to justify much prestige programming that has been made in the past if you have a turnover-based levy."

Mr Bland has suggested ITV's 15 companies pay about £500 million to the Treasury and be allowed to keep their franchises indefinitely, subject to five-yearly reviews. In return, Independent Broadcasting Authority restrictions on franchise ownership would end.

## SPIKE MILLIGAN'S NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS (8 MONTHS ON)

1. Give up rice pudding in bed.  
The rice pudding fix at midnight! I was addicted. But I had to kick it. So I kicked the rice pudding and ended up with a soggy sock!
2. Stop being a compulsive nudist.  
It's not my fault, I was born that way. I even turned up to Seacombe's Investiture naked in a top hat. Now do you get a naked man into a top hat? Ask Paul Daniels.
3. Stop wearing the gas mask.  
It was hell shaving. And kissing my wife smashed her teeth. Stop wearing it? I can't write a word of my War Memoirs without it.
4. Cut down on caffeine.  
It sounded impossible but I had to break fresh ground. So I broke into fresh ground Café Hag. It tastes so good I take my top hat off to it! Now it's perfectly normal for me to go without caffeine, but I'd go crazy without a good cup of coffee!



NATURALLY DECAFFEINATED FOR A RICHER SMOOTHER FLAVOUR.

## 'Pessimism up' on economy

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister, the Government and its economic performance face more criticism from women than from men, according to the latest MORI opinion poll for Times Newspapers.

The past month has seen a general drop in economic optimism, the survey showed. Men remain in balance optimistic about the state of the economy, and 11 per cent more women are pessimistic rather than optimistic.

Asked whether the Budget was good or bad for them personally, 15 per cent more men believed that it was good, whereas on balance 2 per cent more women thought that it was bad rather than good.

Five per cent more women than men thought the Budget

was bad for the country as a whole, although both sexes were sharply opposed.

Respondents were asked their views about the general performance of the Government.

Of men, 6 per cent more were dissatisfied than satisfied with the way the Government is running the country; of women, 18 per cent more were dissatisfied.

As many men are satisfied as are dissatisfied with Mrs Thatcher but 6 per cent more women are dissatisfied than approve the way she is doing her job.

Further signs of the latent unpopularity of the Budget came when when 1,076 respondents in full or part time employment were asked

how important they regarded having the extra money that had come to them through the Budget; 38 per cent thought it important and 48 per cent unimportant.

Asked what they planned to do with the extra money, some 30 per cent said that they had not noticed it.

Fifteen per cent said that they would spend it on a day-to-day basis; 7 per cent said that they would save it and a further 7 per cent said that they would use it to help with their mortgage.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,906 adults aged 18 or over in 147 constituency sampling points between July 21 and July 25.

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## 200 air travellers sent home

By Patrick O'Hanlon

About 200 air travellers were sent home from Birmingham airport over the weekend to wait up to 12 hours for flights to Spain and Portugal.

Air traffic control restrictions over Spain caused delays at many airports, and passengers were warned that the backlog would probably result in further delays today.

At Birmingham, most of the 300 passengers on two fully booked Paramount flights chose to wait at home after having checked in. The first flight, to Ibiza, due to depart at 6.50am yesterday, eventually left at 6.30pm. The second, to Faro, in Portugal, which should have departed at 1.30pm, was not expected to leave before midnight.

Aberdeen: An Intasun flight from Palma, due to arrive at 9.50am yesterday, was delayed indefinitely. Other flights on schedule.

## FLIGHTCHECK



Scheduled services with a BAe 146 jet airliner are to begin today at Belfast Harbour, eight days after the controversial demonstration flight with a similar aircraft into the London City Airport, the UK's other urban airport.

Loganair, the Scottish airline, is introducing its first 100-seat BAe 146 on afternoon flights to Manchester.

Birmingham: Apart from the delays to Ibiza and Faro, a Britannia Airways flight to Malaga was delayed for six hours. Bristol: A Britannia Airways flight to Palma, due to depart at 1.30pm, was delayed for two hours late, in turn delaying a departure for Salzburg yesterday evening. Otherwise, all delays under half an hour.

Cardiff: An Amber Airways flight from Palma due to arrive at 9.10pm on Saturday arrived at 1.40pm yesterday; outgoing at 1.40pm, running two to three hours late, and incoming flights running three to four hours late.

East Midlands: Delays of up to five hours. Gatwick: Incoming flights delayed up to four hours but passengers advised to report on time. "It's quite a reasonable weekend compared with some we've had," a spokesman said.

Leeds/Bradford: Danair flight to Jersey delayed two hours; no other major delays.

Luton: Delays of up to four hours.

Manchester: Delays of two to three hours on some Spanish flights. Passengers asked to check in on time.

Newcastle: Delays for arrivals and departures of between one and four hours; main destinations affected are Palma, Malaga and Tenerife. "Otherwise, it's been quite a good weekend", the airport said.

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# Hospital admissions take up to six times longer in some areas

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Wide variation in the length of time patients must wait for hospital treatment is shown in figures from the Department of Health and Social Security.

In some districts, the majority of patients must wait for more than a year for admission. In Ealing health authority, for example, 57 per cent of the 1,688 patients who were waiting for treatment in September 1987 had been waiting for 12 months or more.

In others the majority are treated within two months.

Across the country the proportion of patients waiting more than a year varies by more than 50 times between districts.

In contrast to Ealing only 3 per cent of the 1,083 patients in Grimsby authority had been waiting more than a year. In Grimsby, 59 per cent had been waiting up to two months, 24 per cent up to five months and 13 per cent up to 11 months.

Authorities with the shortest waiting lists are often those with fewer hospitals offering fewer specialties.

In Halton, Cheshire, for example, only one per cent of its 135 patients waiting for treatment have been on the waiting list for more than a year. However, the district, which has a high proportion of elderly patients, only provides four specialties: general surgery, urology, general medicine, and obstetrics and gynaecology.

In general the longest waiting times appear to be in trauma and orthopaedics, ear, nose and throat, ophthalmol-

## LONGEST WAIT

District	Total	% waiting over a year
Ealing	1,688	57
W Lambeth	8,148	56
West Surrey	4,984	52
AN E Hants	3,111	51
Frenchay	7,443	50
S Blm'ghm	5,585	45
Basildon & Thurrock	1,394	42
Bassetlaw	4,171	42
Okham	7,134	43
Tower Hamlets	7,240	39

## SHORTEST WAIT

District	Total	% waiting over a year
Halton	135	1
Dewsbury	527	2
Grimsby	1,083	3
Haringey	729	3
Huntingdon	1,143	4
Bury	657	5
Caerdydd	1,084	5
South West	1,015	7
Durham	1,206	7
Harrow	1,625	8

(Source: September 1987 waiting list figures from the DHSS)

ogy, urology and general surgery.

On Friday Miss Marianne Rigge, director of the College of Health, accused ministers of deliberately dragging their heels over publication of the waiting lists figures.

The Department of Health and Social Security emphasized this weekend that the figure of 662,000 people waiting for treatment was pub-

lished last April. However, in spite of new, quicker information systems detailed figures emerged six months later than usual.

When the March 1987 figures were published late last year, the DHSS gave a breakdown comparing regions and showing year-on-year changes. The latest figures give no analysis at all.

The statistics do however contain, for the first time, the number of cases in which a patient refused an offer of admission for personal reasons. In North Tees for example, which has relatively low waiting times and waiting lists, 20 per cent of the 1,018 patients waiting for treatment had refused an appointment.

Similarly in Tower Hamlets, London, 1,371 of the 7,134 patients waiting for treatment had self-deferred.

The college, part of the Consumers' Association, relies on the figures to compile its annual guide to hospital waiting lists to help people to shop around for treatment. Yesterday Miss Rigge said the figures were now out of date that they would be little use.

"We know that the department has had the figures printed for months, awaiting ministerial approval," Miss Rigge said. "Failure to publish the figures earlier means that there will now be no opportunity for parliamentary debate until the autumn."

The figures were placed in the House of Commons Library at the start of the summer recess on Friday afternoon amid accusations of a cover-up.

# Kenneth Clarke at rest



Off duty: Mr Kenneth Clarke, the newly appointed Secretary of State for Health, on cue at the snooker table at the Sidcup and Fooks Cray United Services Club, Kent, at the weekend. Mr Clarke, also a jazz enthusiast and keen supporter of Nottingham Forest Football Club, was taking a break from the rigours of Westminster at the club, where his brother-in-law, Mr Tom Edwards, is a member.

# Bacteria link with leukaemia clusters

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

Scientists have provided a possible explanation for the childhood leukaemia cases found around nuclear fuel processing plants.

Their discovery would also account for the higher than average concentrations of leukaemia near industrial sites that discharge waste containing small amounts of other non-radioactive heavy metals that are known to be toxic.

The explanation is the indirect result of research on the use of micro-organisms to remove heavy metals, including radioactive ones, from industrial effluent.

It was found that each bacterium could accumulate up to three or four times its own weight. But the same micro-organisms, *desulfovibrios*, are present in the human gut.

If plutonium, for example, is ingested in very low concentrations in food or water, then it may be collected by *desulfovibrios* attached to the wall of the gut.

Other work has shown that these bacteria also cross the gut wall into the blood stream, providing a potential pathway for radioactive plutonium to reach the lymph glands and bone marrow to cause leukaemia.

The research by Professor Derek Ellwood, a microbiologist of Durham University, and Dr Jim Watson, of Southampton University, could apply to leukaemia cases near Sellafield and at Dounreay in Scotland.

The findings are being examined by the Department of Health. If the conclusions are confirmed radioactive safety levels in the environment will have to be drastically revised.

# Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator First win since War

There were six winners of the £8,000 weekly prize in *The Times Portfolio* competition including a retired headmaster who praised the contest as an educational aid to understanding the stock market.

Mr Rowan Hackman, aged 73, of Petersfield, Hampshire, said: "I so wish it had been around long ago. I would have known then how it all worked and invested some money. I have been a reader for 30 years."

In spite of his windfall of £1,333 he says he is not one of life's competition winners. The last time he won anything was £5 in the pools in 1939, and war broke out two days later.

But his win on this occasion was timely as it fell on his wife Eva's birthday.

The other winners were Mrs Margaret Cragg, aged 68, of Altrincham, Cheshire, a retired personnel officer for the Civil Aviation Authority; Mrs Madeleine Dickson, aged 39, a retired solicitor of Winchester, Hampshire; Mr R Yates of York; Mr J I C Dent of Eastbourne, East Sussex, and Mr F C Smith of Esher, Surrey.

# Four guilty over 'speed' factory

Four men have been convicted by a jury at the Central Criminal Court of involvement in a multi-million pound amphetamine factory in east London.

Detectives who raided the factory over a garage in Tidal Basin Road, Canning Town, in February last year, found £250,000-worth of amphetamine sulphate, known as "speed".

The jury on Saturday convicted Joseph Pykett, aged 35, of Hazelwood, Upper Park, Loughton, Essex, and Stephen Tucker, aged 29, of no fixed address, of conspiracy to produce and supply the drug.

Charles "Chic" Matthews, aged 53, a scrap-dealer, of St Mary's Avenue, Weststead, east London, and Kevin Hole, aged 26, of Theydon Road, Epping, were convicted of conspiracy to supply. Hole was also convicted of possession of amphetamine sulphate.

Judge Petre postponed sentence until September 19 to allow defence lawyers to prepare a case against possible seizure of assets under the Drug Trafficking Act.

# New scanner will help unborn babies

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Scientists at Nottingham University will this week announce the development of a new type of medical scanner that for the first time will give doctors clear moving pictures of the organs of an unborn baby.

Professor Peter Mansfield, who heads the research team at Nottingham, told *The Times* that the machine is sensitive enough to detect early signs of conditions such as spina bifida in foetuses.

He is to give details of the machine and its capabilities at a scientific conference in San Francisco this week.

Called an echo planar magnetic resonance scanner, the machine is a development of Professor Mansfield's pioneering work on so-called nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) imaging. That is the technique of generating pictures by exploiting the sub-atomic

properties of water molecules in the body.

NMR scanners giving still, clear pictures of organs are now used in many hospitals world-wide. However, until now, doctors wanting moving pictures to study the behaviour of organs such as the heart have had to use ultrasound scanners, whose picture quality is far below that possible with NMR.

After 12 years of work, Professor Mansfield has now succeeded in extending the basic NMR principle to produce moving images. An echo planar NMR machine has now been built and is under test at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

The initial results have been very encouraging, Professor Mansfield said. "Our images look like anatomical cross-sections, whereas ultrasound images are

pretty unclear, and don't reflect the anatomy."

Like ultrasound, the NMR technique does not expose the patient to radiation such as X-rays, and so can be used to study unborn babies in complete safety.

The breakthrough achieved by the Nottingham team has been to speed the rate at which NMR pictures are formed and processed. "The techniques behind it are radically new. Many people still do not realize you can do NMR imaging as fast as this," Professor Mansfield said.

The Department of Health has so far balked at the expense of NMR, costing about £1 million each, despite the faster diagnosis and patient turnover they make possible. The new, faster machine would cost the same, but would deal with more than three times the number of patients of existing scanners.

# Fear causes 'phantom' Aids

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Some people are so convinced that they have been infected with the Aids virus that they develop phantom symptoms which threaten their mental and physical health.

The syndrome is described by psychologists specializing in Aids-related cases in the latest issue of the *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians of London*.

Many of the patients become suicidal, others require psychiatric treatment and some refuse to accept negative blood tests.

"Increasing numbers of psychologically vulnerable people appear to have adopted the Aids pandemic as a vehicle

for the expression of their sexual, psychological or psychiatric vulnerability", the report says.

It cites case histories such as that of David, a professional man, aged 35, who after three negative blood tests still spent 30 minutes a day checking his body for symptoms.

He was convinced that he had become infected with the HIV virus in a casual encounter with a woman abroad and was so afraid of infecting his steady girlfriend that they had postponed plans to have a baby.

Janet, aged 39, had slept with two men in recent years,

and was worried that she had infected one of them as a result of catching the virus from the other. She had swollen glands, night sweats, and other Aids-like symptoms, but her blood test was also negative.

A study showed that more than half of the patients with these symptoms had made plans for suicide "to avoid the catastrophic inevitability of Aids."

However, the specialists say that psychotherapy, in which the patients were encouraged to re-interpret their symptoms in terms of anxiety rather than HIV, led to significant improvements.

# No controls on young 'cause of rural violence'

Rural violence is growing because people are not controlling youngsters who realize they can get away with it, Mr John Duke, Chief Constable of Hampshire, said yesterday.

Mr Duke, who retires at the end of this month, said: "Social engineers and trick cyclists offer all sorts of theories, but I am convinced the only

reason it is growing is because they are getting away with it."

He said it was not easy for police alone to apply the sort of constraints necessary to discourage rural violence. He was not persuaded by those who claimed the youngsters had been stung by their mothers when they were babies, or some similar explanation. "I

think youngsters do it. I don't think they are a lot different, except they didn't used to get away with it."

He said that in the past there were local sanctions within rural communities. These no longer applied because people were opting out of controlling the young. "Four police officers were

injured early yesterday when they were attacked by a gang of more than fifty youths at Wantage, Oxfordshire.

Police reinforcements were called after a fight between two youths outside a public house escalated. Six youths who were arrested were being questioned about public order offences, the police said.

# Police puzzle on race bomb threat

By Craig Seton

An extremist group thought to have planted five bombs in the West Midlands over the past year says more are on the way.

Detectives fear someone will be maimed or killed by the activities of the group, which calls itself the Black Liberation Front (BLF) and says it intends to murder police officers.

Detectives believe that it consists of militant black activists who may have adopted an IRA-style cell structure to avoid detection.

The possibility that white, right-wing extremists may be trying to discredit the black community in the Wolverhampton and Walsall areas, where the bombs were planted, is not ruled out. That is the belief of black leaders.

The gang's identity remains a mystery in spite of a large-scale investigation.

Police are taking seriously telephone calls to a local newspaper in which a man claiming to represent the BLF used a code name to identify himself, and said more bombs would be planted.

In the latest incident three weeks ago, a device containing an explosive mixture of 6lb of weedkiller and sugar was left in a car park close to Walsall police station.

The bomb contained an anti-handling mechanism. It was defused.

Det Chief Insp Trevor Lowbridge, who is leading the Walsall inquiry, said: "It would have killed somebody if it had detonated. It was a murderous device. We have scoured the criminal fraternity, both black and white, and come up with nothing".

Detectives are also checking reports that leaflets carrying

the name of the BLF have been distributed urging the black community into a guerrilla war against the police and government staff.

Det Supt Ken Cook, the head of Wolverhampton CID, said yesterday: "We have carried out inquiries all over the country concerning any possible political associations with these incidents."

"It is still a very big inquiry. Our biggest problem is the lack of information coming from the public. I am keeping an open mind. They could be black, black and white together, or whites. We have to look at every possibility."

The bomb incidents are believed to have started after the death in Wolverhampton in February 1987 of Clinton McCorbin.

Mr McCorbin, aged 24, an Afro-Caribbean, died in a struggle with two police officers who were trying to arrest him for allegedly using a stolen credit card. His death sparked off two days of disorder and relations between the police and sections of the black community worsened.

In the months afterwards, several attempts were made to try to lure police into petrol bomb attacks in the Wolverhampton area.

Then last year an incendiary device partly detonated inside Wolverhampton Civic Centre. Later, a stolen car containing a petrol can wired to a battery was parked in the driveway of a police station in Wolverhampton. The device was defused. The previous day the car had been seen with black occupants.

The BLF claimed responsibility for two more devices consisting of cans of petrol and timing mechanisms.

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£10,000 up to £24,999	7.50 p.a.	10.00
£25,000 plus	7.75 p.a.	10.33
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£25,000 plus	7.75 p.a.	10.33
Monthly Interest:		
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# Renewed attack on restrictive practices Borrie presses lawyers to advertise scale of charges

Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, is to press for solicitors and barristers to advertise their charges to the public as part of a renewed campaign against the profession's restrictive practices.

He also favours the removal of the present prohibition on solicitors who are employed by banks or building societies doing conveyancing work for their borrowers.

This would be strongly opposed by many solicitors who believe it would enable the big lending bodies to offer "all-in" conveyancing packages and cut right into the conveyancing market. They also believe it would create unacceptable conflicts of interest.

Sir Gordon also wants to review again the rules which prevent solicitors setting up shop with other professionals in "mixed" practices, with the possibility of referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

He wants the Bar to relax rules on sharing their fees so that chambers can give more financial help to young entrants. As a last resort, this issue too might be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Sir Gordon has returned to his campaign against the profession's restrictive practices in the wake of the recent Marre report on the future of the legal profession, which was, in his view, disappointing.

"All that Marre has done is to plonk the problems and



Sir Gordon Borrie: on the attack over charges.

more specific detail of fees for the public, he says.

As for the Bar, its code of conduct "severely restricts advertising by individual practitioners" (although chambers brochures are now allowed) and, in effect, prohibits barristers from publicizing their charges.

He says to the Lord Chancellor: "I would like to see the code of conduct relaxed to permit this and expanded so as to encourage the routine provision of advance information about fees in individual cases."

On the key issue of partnership between barristers, Sir Gordon has shifted his view. He endorses the Marre committee view that full partnerships could reduce consumer choice and he accepts that these would be inappropriate for barristers who essentially operate as individuals.

But he warns that if the Bar does not take steps to relax its rules to allow the sharing of fees so that better funding can be provided for new recruits to the Bar, it could "rebound to its detriment".

The Bar has changed its rules to allow a sharing of expenses between barristers in the same chambers but fee-sharing is prohibited.

"If the Bar is unwilling to allow this kind of purse sharing, then this is inhibiting new entrants and competition", Sir Gordon said. As a last resort, he might have to consider a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

On the issue of solicitors

who are employed by lending bodies, Sir Gordon said they should be able to do such work as conveyancing for the public "provided there are safeguards against conflicts of interest".

The argument about this has, in his view, been exaggerated.

On mixed practices he accepted the Law Society had taken a number of steps since the issue was raised in 1986, such as allowing certain profit-sharing schemes with other professionals.

He would examine whether there was scope for further improvement, which he believed there was.

If the Law Society of both England and Scotland persisted in outlawing mixed practices without sufficient other measures, he would again consider a referral to the commission.

The issue of solicitors being granted advocacy rights in the crown court, as recommended by the Marre committee, was one for the Lord Chancellor, Sir Gordon said.

Although he supported lifting the restrictions against this, because he felt the Bar would retain the work without them, the committee proposal itself was "shot through with contradictions because there was no proposal to allow solicitors High Court advocacy rights although it recommended they should be eligible for the High Court Bench".

This proposal was "curiously argued".

# Trotting back in time



A double-deck garden seat omnibus, drawn by two Clydesdales from the Heavy Horse Omnibus Centre at Totnes, Devon, setting a leisurely pace in the town yesterday. The centre, recently opened to the public, runs the only two Victorian-style omnibuses working in Britain. They were built by Mr David Underhill, a Canadian blacksmith.

# Advisors on Welsh selected

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, will today announce the eight members of the newly established Welsh Language Board, which will advise him on promotion of the language.

On the eve of its inception, the board was denounced as a "sham" by Cymdeithas yr Iaith, the Welsh Language Society, which has been campaigning for a new Welsh Language Act.

Yesterday Mr Steffan Webb, a Cymdeithas senate member, said: "Plaid Cymru has welcomed the board, and we fear many moderate Welsh speakers will do the same. But Mr Walker is wasting his time and ours by setting up a board which has no power whatsoever, and we feel he has missed a chance to secure real rights for Welsh speakers."

# Lost million

The backlog of mail caused by an unofficial strike at the York sorting office reached almost a million items yesterday. The dispute started with 50 workers walking out on Friday in a dispute over holiday staffing levels.

# Prime site

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's first home, a former grocer's shop in North Parade, Grantham, Lincolnshire, reopens today as a restaurant called The Premier.

# Mud escape

A woman and her two sons were recovering yesterday after sinking into mud off Clacton beach, Essex. Mrs Ruth Wright, aged 53, of Middlesex, sank to her chest and was rescued by police and a passer-by who waded in after her sons struggled free.

# Rescuer killed

A man was run over and killed yesterday as he tried to rescue a stray cat lying injured on a busy road. Stuart Latimer, aged 18, of Horsham, West Sussex, ran on to the A23 at Crawley, to save the cat when he was struck by a car.

# JPs' plea to Hurd on court security

Magistrates and their chief clerks are seeking an urgent meeting with the Home Office over the hiring of private security firms to protect them from attacks in court.

Both the Magistrates' Association and the Justices' Clerks' Society have been increasingly concerned about the problem of security with the withdrawal by a number of police forces of their officers from the courtroom.

The Home Office has refused to allow them to hire private security firms to prevent any attack by defendants or other people in court. Some police forces

have stopped sending officers to court unless they are giving evidence, since police handed over prosecutions to the Crown Prosecution Service in 1986.

Courts in some areas, including Clwyd, Doncaster, Wakefield, and Medway, have asked to be allowed to use private security firms.

The issue was raised at the Justices' Clerks' Society conference in Blackpool earlier this year.

The president, Mr John Pearson, said that employing security firms was the only solution.

Magistrates say violent incidents in

courtrooms are increasing. In one case a defendant leapt out of the dock in a magistrates' court in Birmingham, broke a glass and held it to a woman JP's throat.

At Preston magistrates' court, police had to be called in to break up a fight between parties to an inquest. In another case a witness was assaulted by a defendant at Blackpool magistrates' court.

Clwyd magistrates' courts committee has decided to allocate £30,000 this year for a security firm, but the Home Office has refused to give the go-ahead.

# Probation officers attack punishment changes

Probation officers begin a defence today of their existing methods of dealing with offenders.

If government proposals for

punishment in the community were implemented, the National Association of Probation Officers says, probation work would move away from advising, assisting and supervising offenders towards community based surveillance.

Mr Harry Fletcher, association assistant general secretary, said: "It is a source of great concern to watch the Home Office floating a range of sentencing options such as tracking, electronic surveillance, intensive probation and

compulsory unpaid work without data about their effectiveness."

Mr Fletcher said recent evidence from the United States suggested that such packages did not reduce the prison population.

# WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

## Think tank cup runneth over

Much of the coverage of last week's launch of the left-wing think tank, the Institute for Policy Research, was predictably fixed on personality, notably that of Baroness Blackstone.

As a result, the most pertinent question about think tanks in the late 1980s was not asked. It is why, in spite of the antinomian strain in policy making, there are as many as there are.

The premise on which Lady Blackstone and her colleagues launched their venture is false. There are many centre-of-politics groups supplying commentary and research on public policy. Among them is the Employment Institute, the Public Finance Foundation (supported by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy), the Royal Institute of Public Administration, the Institute of Fiscal Studies, and the Centre for Economic Policy Research. What they have failed to find is the grail of all think tankers, influence.

It is in this arena that the think tanks of the right score. At a seminar organized by the Centre for Policy Studies, no less than three senior Civil Servants attended. The point is not just that under Labour it would have been considered *infra dig* for Civil Servants to be seen attending, say, a Fabian event, but that they were there to learn what their ministers might come up with next. It is the swift passage of ideas generated by the CPS, and the Adam Smith In-

stitute, into the heart of Whitehall that testifies to their influence.

Yet the tanks in the middle bubble on. The impression abroad is that since Professor Ralf Dahrendorf's bid to create in London some equivalent of the Brookings Institution collapsed in the late 1970s, thinking has stopped. On the contrary, it is the ubiquity of the thinking that makes the case for a new addition from the left all the more doubtful.

Some tanks do unsung but highly useful studies. Take the Science Policy Research Unit and the Institute of Manpower Studies at the University of Sussex. Ideas about the future course of jobs drop from the IMS regularly and quickly reappear, often without attribution, in ministers' speeches.

The Policy Studies Institute is more or less in this camp. It is valued by the Department of Health and the Social Services Department for Richard Berthoud's work. The departments have nowhere else to go if they want to know what is happening outside Whitehall.

But the cynical question is how much do they want to know? Empiricism is not exactly a popular philosophy. Think tanks have to watch their tone of their criticism of government policy if they are to secure Whitehall's co-operation.

This problem confronts the Royal Institute of Public Administration. RIPA's council recently appointed an

Inner London Education Authority official, Mr David Falcon, to succeed Dr William Plowden as director general.

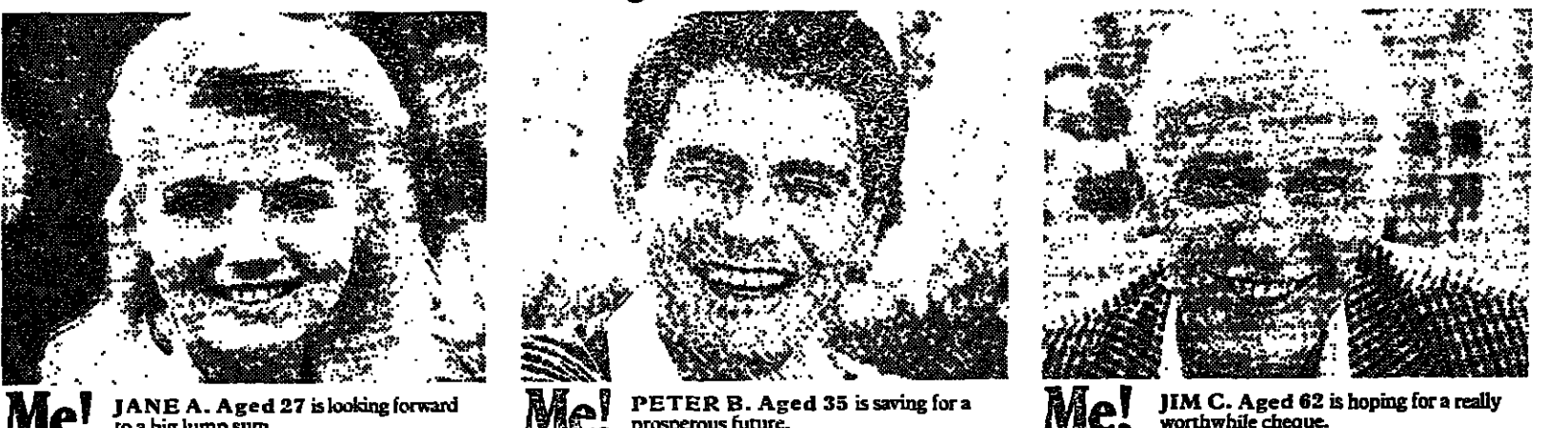
Neither local government nor the IEA are exactly favourite institutions, in Whitehall or Westminster. Plowden, for all his intellectual independence, was a former Whitehall high-flyer who moved comfortably within the inner circles. RIPA courts the risk that his successor will not inherit the high degree of trust the permanent secretaries have conventionally put in it.

A similar kind of doubt hangs over the latest venture of the Public Finance Foundation, the relaunch of the journal *Public Money and Management*, now edited by a team from the London Business School. Both stem from initiatives by the dynamic director of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, Mr Noel Hepworth.

CIPFA has been invaluable to government in working out detailed policies, notably in local government. But the question still gets asked: are they for or against us? The "us" in that sentence has a varying membership, sometimes mandarins alone, sometimes their political masters.

Whitehall has become very close about certain subjects. How far the think tankers of the centre and left will be permitted to enrol Civil Servants among their contributors remains a highly charged question.

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# Classics conference Grecian urns pay dividends

Evidence from vase paintings throws new light on one of the most mysterious classical Greek plays, Euripides' *Bacchae*, the triennial conference of classicists, which ended at Oxford at the weekend, was told.

From literary and iconographic evidence before Euripides it appears that the traditional myth said Pentheus was torn apart by maenads - followers of Bacchus - when he went into battle against them.

According to Dr Jennifer March, of Southampton University, it seems possible that Euripides was the first myth-maker to have Pentheus madened by Dionysus, dress up

as a woman when he went up on to Kithairon and be torn apart by Agave, his own mother.

There is evidence in the text of the *Bacchae* itself that Euripides was stepping aside from the usual version of the myth and creating his own. If he was inventing and innovating the original story so drastically, it throws important new light on his tragic vision in this most powerful play.

Dr Valerie Manfield, of Exeter University, reported from an archaeologist's dream: a preserved site with a coincidence of all types of evidence. Mons Claudianus, between the Red Sea and the Nile, is undisturbed by grave

robbers and tourists because it is so inaccessible, in savage mountains and militarily sensitive terrain.

It is as if the Roman workers had downed tools yesterday in the quarries where they mined the grey spotted granite. The excavations are discovering information about Roman quarrying techniques and military organizations.

Troop movements suggest the Roman army may have had specialized quarrying units. There is the earliest use of "pagan" to mean a civilian. A woman on the site is instructed to dress more decorously and a man is reproved for growing a beard.

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18-28	£2,131	£2,131	£2,131	£2,131	£2,960	£3,520
30	2,130	2,131	2,130	2,131	2,960	3,520
35	2,125	2,130	2,125	2,130	2,960	3,520
40	2,116	2,124	2,116	2,124	2,960	3,520
45	2,101	2,113	2,101	2,113	2,960	3,520
50	2,085	2,097	2,085	2,097	2,960	3,520
55	1,975	2,030	2,017	2,071	2,930	3,490
60	1,880	1,879	2,024	2,042	2,930	3,490
65	1,811	1,817	1,987	2,021	2,930	3,490
70	1,773	1,791	1,987	1,987	2,930	3,490
75	1,773	1,773	1,987	1,987	2,930	3,490

Present Age	Guaranteed Immediate		Guaranteed Sum Assured		Projected Maturity Values	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	7.0%	10.5%
18-28	£5,497	£5,497	£5,497	£5,497	£7,570	£9,020
30	5,493	5,497	5,493	5,497	7,570	9,020
35	5,482	5,493	5,482	5,493	7,570	9,020
40	5,465	5,478	5,465	5,478	7,570	9,020
45	5,425	5,455	5,425	5,455	7,570	9,020
50	5,304	5,415	5,337	5,415	7,570	9,020
55	4,972	5,241	5,287	5,270	7,570	9,020
60	4,582	4,851	5,271	5,270	7,120	8,460
65	3,701	4,178	5,140	5,222	6,660	7,940
70	3,033	3,598	5,140	5,140	5,620	7,090
75	2,095	3,033	5,140	5,140	5,140	5,140

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# Diplomatic dance improves British relations with Iran

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and Iran appeared yesterday to be entering the last sequence of a diplomatic dance amid strong signs that a decision to re-staff the empty British Embassy in Tehran is imminent.

The Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury have been involved in separate but complementary efforts to improve relations. A bishop who broke his attendance at the Lambeth Conference to undertake a Beirut mission is due to report back to Dr Robert Runcie today.

A Government decision to send a British diplomat to Tehran is expected, probably leading to a full normalization of relations later. That would clear the way for the Iranian Government to use its influence to obtain the release of British hostages in Lebanon.

Details which emerged yesterday suggest that the Government took a decision in principle early last week to re-staff the empty British Embassy in Tehran, but held back the announcement, probably waiting for the United Nations Secretary-General to declare the date of an Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

In what appears to have been a coincidence, but is unlikely to be seen as such in Tehran, the Archbishop sent an envoy to Beirut at about the time the Government was reviewing its policy.

The chronology of the events which led to the new optimism appears to be significant.

Last Wednesday Mrs Thatcher sent a car to Lam-

beth Palace with a letter for Mr David Waite, brother of Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy who disappeared in Beirut in January 1987.

The letter restated the Government's policy on relations with Iran in much more conciliatory language than in the past. "There are... various problems which have arisen between Britain and Iran in

Mrs Thatcher's comments drew a cautious welcome from relatives of Mr Brian Keenan, the Belfast man who has been held captive in Beirut for 27 months — longer than the other two British hostages. His family has long been critical of the Government's refusal to talk directly with Iran over the hostages.

The recent past which will have to be resolved, but if the goodwill to do so exists in Iran we shall reciprocate it," the letter said in part. The Archbishop is understood to have seen the tone rather than the content as encouraging.

That view was shared in Tehran. The Iranian official news agency IRNA described her remarks yesterday as "a significant change in her own personal handling stance against the Islamic Republic".

Dr Runcie sent a bishop to Beirut to seek information about the fate of four Iranian hostages who disappeared there in July 1982. The Iranians believe they were taken by Christian militiamen, and want to know whether they are alive or dead. The Arch-

bishop's move was a direct response to statements by the Iranian authorities that if he would use his influence with Christian elements in Beirut, Tehran would speak to its sympathizers believed to be holding hostages.

The Rt Rev John Brown, Bishop of Cyprus and, after a break into his attendance at the Lambeth Conference, flew to Cyprus, and caught a ferry to Lebanon on Wednesday. He held meetings with patriarch and abbot of the Christian Maronite faith and with the Armenian patriarch. He sailed back to Cyprus on Saturday and was due to fly to London late last night. The Times understands that he did not establish the fate of the Iranians, but there are hopes that his mission will be seen in Tehran as evidence of a willingness to help.

The main points in the Prime Minister's letter to Mr David Waite were almost identical to what Sir Crispin Tickell, Britain's Permanent Representative at the UN, told Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, at a meeting in New York on Thursday.

Iran has now settled two of the three most important problems which Britain had named as obstacles to improved relations. These were its refusal to accept the Security Council's Resolution 598, which called for a ceasefire and steps towards full peace with Iraq, and its attacks on shipping in the Gulf. It announced its accep-

tance of 598 on July 18, after almost a year of pressure from Britain and other countries.

Attacks on shipping have been almost suspended since then. Yesterday one of Iran's deputy foreign ministers, Mr Ali Mohammad Besharati, said that Iran would not attack Gulf shipping while UN peace talks were in progress.

The third main obstacle was the lack of a ceasefire, but after almost a week of talks between the UN Secretary-General, Secretary Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, and the foreign ministers of both countries, it now appears that Iraq rather than Iran is delaying progress. Talks are to resume today.

Other problems the Government has drawn to Iran's attention are the lack of assurances that a British diplomat would not be ill-treated if sent to Tehran, the lack of consular access for Swedish diplomats representing Britain to visit two Britons held without trial in Iranian prisons, and the failure to either bring the men to trial or release them. But the Iranian Charge d'Affaires in London, Mr Mohammad Mehdi Akhond Zadeh Basti is expected to resume work this week after a holiday. Observers think it likely that he will be making a visit to the Foreign Office shortly.

If the Government sends a diplomat to Tehran, it would not be a concession in the technical sense. Under an arrangement reached last July, relations were frozen but not broken. Britain left its embassy unmanned for security,

## Peru breaks Abu Nidal cell



Peruvian anti-terrorist police escorting Mr Hosne Bouzidi, an alleged leader of the Abu Nidal guerrilla group, who was arrested in Lima on suspicion of plotting attacks on American, Jewish and Peruvian targets.

A government official said Mr Bouzidi, from Algeria, Mr Ahmad Assad Mohamed, from Lebanon, and Mr Mohamed Abdelrahman Ahd, from Egypt, who were all arrested on July 16 would be deported (Reuters reports).

The Interior Ministry said that the three men were planning joint attacks with Peru's Shining Path guerrillas on the US Consulate, the Israeli Embassy, the Synagogue of Israel, and the Israeli travel agency Shalom.

When police raided a house the men were

using they found plans of the Israeli Embassy and the synagogue. They had lists of vehicles from the embassies of Israel, Great Britain, Belgium and Colombia, and names of Israeli businessmen in Colombia. Their files also contained the schedules of security guards at the PLO offices and US Consulate.

Colonel Javier Palacios, deputy commander of the anti-terrorist directorate, said the men were believed to be "intelligence agents sent by the Abu Nidal terrorist organization to establish a clandestine cell in Lima." There were strong suspicions but "no conclusive proof" they had sought links with Shining Path. Mr Bouzidi was identified by Interpol as a central committee member of Abu Nidal.

## Belgrade ethnic problem simmers

From Richard Bassett and Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

The Yugoslav Government, after 21 hours of heated and at times vitriolic televised debate at the weekend, is no nearer to solving the racial problems of Kosovo, the autonomous southern province in which nearly two million ethnic Albanians live uneasily side by side with a Serbian minority.

The Central Committee's special meeting, while adopting a unanimous resolution to review the situation every three months in the province, highlighted the strong differences between Yugoslav politicians on how to settle the country's potentially most explosive problem.

Despite fears from certain quarters that Serbian nationalism was on the increase, the Serbian leader, Mr Slobodan Milosevic, rigorously rejected charges that Kosovo Serbs were being manipulated by nationalists.

Mr Milosevic clear put pressure on the committee to come round to his point of view that the tension between Serbs and Albanians in the province would end if only Serbia strengthened its control over the province.

But both Kosovo and the other autonomous province in Yugoslavia, Vojvodina, are against such a move, which would result in them surrendering all security and judicial decisions to the Serbs.

To counter this resistance, Mr Milosevic has invoked the idea of "restoring" the Serbian nation to its former position as a fully fledged state, an idea which appeals to non-Communists as well as to the younger generation.

But apart from providing a platform for Mr Milosevic's persuasive oratory, it is difficult to see how the committee meeting has helped to solve the problem. Resolutions passed unanimously by politicians who were beforehand in open disagreement and hardly on speaking terms are invariably only bits of paper.

At no time did the Central Committee stand by its own president to question the rallies by Serbs which recently took place in Vojvodina, and which the president had already twice demanded should be discussed. As one of the committee's members observed, the situation has reached "a time of crisis". He said: "We are only slinging mud at each other as the Chinese did during the cultural revolution."

## Thatcher sells her success story to Singapore sceptics

From Robin Oakley, Singapore

Mrs Thatcher yesterday set out to sell the economic achievements of her Government to what she regards as a previously sceptical audience of South-East Asian investors.

In talks with Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore, and in an interview with the Singapore Broadcasting Commission, to be broadcast later this week, she insisted that "Britain is booming" and outlined how the first six years of her administration had turned around the British economy, which had since taken off.

Mrs Thatcher, who wants to see Britain and Singapore co-operate in exploiting rapidly growing markets in Asia and the Pacific, has been worried that Britain's image as the "sick man of Europe" has

lingered in Singapore while being eradicated elsewhere.

Yesterday, she emphasized that restrictive practices had been eliminated, the trade unions reformed, and an enterprise economy established in Britain.

Mrs Thatcher gave the example of British Steel, which had required an annual subsidy of £800 million when her Government was first elected, and which last year made a £400 million profit.

She said that a million jobs had been created in a newly confident Britain, and construction industry work alone was up 10 per cent this year.

Earlier she paid a glowing tribute to Mr Lee, the longest-serving Prime Minister in the Commonwealth. He is expected to retire when he reaches the age of 65 this autumn and to become President under a new constitutional

arrangement presented to the Singapore Parliament in a White Paper on Friday.

Mrs Thatcher told the Singaporeans at the opening of the Television system — the world's most advanced photo-video-text system which has been jointly developed by Singaporean Telecoms and the British company OEC-Marconi — that "we admire everything you do here, and the splendid way you do it", praising the comparatively litter-free city for its architecture and concern for the environment. It was, she said, "an example to the cities of the world".

British diplomats are convinced that Mr Goh Chok Tong, the first Deputy Prime Minister, will succeed Mr Lee later this year and that the Prime Minister will shortly afterwards contest and win the presidency.

The White Paper provides for

the strengthening of the presidential role, giving him powers of veto over the use of the country's economic reserves — valued at some \$530 billion (£17.5 billion) — and over key public service appointments.

Mr Goh said: "The President will not be an executive President. He will only have a custodial role in two areas — safeguarding our financial reserves and the integrity of the public service."

In their talks, Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lee covered a wide range of international relations and discussed in particular protectionist threats to world trade.

But despite British pressure, Singapore is not yet ready to sign a bilateral agreement to co-operate in confiscating the assets of drug traffickers.

● **Afghan role:** Britain is playing a significant role in seeking to facili-

tate the exchange of prisoners between the Afghan guerrillas and the Soviet Army.

Mrs Thatcher, who has always taken a keen interest in the Afghan resistance cause, is also keen to assist Mr Mikhail Gorbachev and appreciates the Soviet leader's concern for his soldiers.

Although she does not plan any high-profile public initiative, Mrs Thatcher has been using her contacts with both sides and working quietly behind the scenes to arrange an exchange.

Part of the difficulty is that there are clear rules for such swaps in an "orderly war" but not in a "dirty war", as the struggle between the Soviet occupation forces and the Mujahidin has been.

Mrs Thatcher last week saw Sir Ahmad Gailani, the leader of the Afghan rebel armies, in Downing Street, and on her way through the

Gulf states at the weekend she discussed the issue at length with Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman, who is believed to have good contacts with the Afghan rebels.

She also told him that Britain intends to increase its role in Middle East politics and that she is determined to avoid any vacuum in US foreign policy when President Reagan's successor takes over. Whether it is Mr George Bush or Mr Michael Dukakis, Mrs Thatcher will press the new American leader to initiate an international conference as a move towards settling the Arab-Israeli conflict as swiftly as possible.

The Prime Minister's talks with Sultan Qaboos are expected to result in an extension of the British lease on the Masirah communications base. Her visit has improved the prospects for sales of the Javelin missile system.

### WORLD ROUNDUP

## Luanda embassy shelters woman

The British Embassy in Luanda has given sanctuary for the past 10 weeks to a woman who fears for her life if she leaves the building (Andrew McEwen writes). Miss Olivia Forsyth, aged 27, who holds joint British and South African nationality, told British diplomats that she had escaped from the African National Congress after being held captive for 22 months at a base in southern Angola.

She believes she would be recaptured by the ANC unless the Angolan Government allows her to leave the country. The Embassy has applied for an exit visa for her. The Foreign Office was unable to confirm reports that she was a student activist in South Africa. *Leading article, page 11*

## South Africa toll

**Johannesburg** — In one of the worst outbreaks of violence in South Africa this year, 13 people were killed and 74 injured at the weekend in two bomb blasts, a prison riot and unrest in black townships (Michael Hornsby writes). Most of the township incidents were in Natal province, which has seen an upsurge in fighting between rival black factions in the last two months.

A bomb which exploded on Saturday in a crowded Wimpy hamburger restaurant in Benoni, a dormitory town about 20 miles east of Johannesburg, killed one white woman and injured 36 people, six critically.

## Koch Ulster apology

Mayor Edward Koch of New York has reiterated his demand for the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland and conceded that he made "an error" when he said he did not believe that the troops were "occupying forces" (Our Foreign Staff writes). Mr Koch broadcast a rare, formal apology on New York radio for his remarks. Mr Koch said in the *Sunday Times* yesterday that nothing he saw or was told when he visited Ireland had altered his resolve "some day to see a withdrawal of British troops, a unified Ireland and, just as important, an end to discrimination against Catholics in the north". He said a timetable was needed "to end the British presence and ensure the orderly and peaceful transition of power".

## Crisis in Mafia fight

**Rome (Reuters)** — Italy's best-known anti-Mafia investigator has asked to quit, citing obstruction and discord with his superior, Signor Antonino Meli, who had put himself in charge of all inquiries into the crime syndicate.

Signor Giovanni Falcone, the architect of a mass Mafia trial last year and the most experienced anti-Mafia magistrate in the Sicilian capital, Palermo, said he wanted an immediate transfer. His action heightens a crisis which began 10 days ago with charges by a senior magistrate, backed by Signor Falcone, that incompetence and misguided policies were crippling operations. A spokesman for the Supreme Council of Magistrates said he believed others among a pool of nine magistrates had asked to move.

## Victory for soap fans

**Delhi (AFP)** — Indian state television has caved in to public opinion polls, parliamentary pressure and threats of civil unrest, and agreed to extend a soap opera which was to have ended yesterday, press reports said.

The Press Trust of India quoted the producer of the *Ramayan* serial as saying that broadcasts of the popularized version of the Hindu epic would resume in two months. Last week, an appeal to revive the serial was raised in Parliament, and municipal and health workers in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh went on a protest strike.

## Gorbachov spells out radical steps to reform

By Mary Dejevsky

In his speech to the Central Committee plenum of the Soviet Communist Party on Friday, Mr Gorbachov went further than before in indicating how his reform programme will affect ordinary people.

He spoke of radical cuts in the number employed in the Communist Party apparatus, of measures to improve the position of the many national minorities — including those, like the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, who have no territory of their own — and of plans to allow peasants to lease land for as long as 50 years.

He also pledged measures to shorten the queues which plague Soviet towns and cities. The following are excerpts from his address:

● **Opposition to change:** (The special party conference) demonstrated the tremendous striving of communists and the entire people for *perestroika*... at the same time, it demonstrated that conservative sentiments, longing for the past, attempts to sow doubt and to portray *perestroika* not as an historic endeavour but almost as a force for social destabiliza-

tion, have not nearly been overcome in society...

● **Cutting party apparatus:** The new apparatus should enable the party in general to exercise in full its function as the political vanguard of society... this means that the party apparatus should be totally relieved of administrative-managerial functions and concentrate on the key directions of home and foreign policy and shift its centre of gravity to giving political guidance.

Naturally, the question will arise of correctly utilizing the personnel that will leave the apparatus. Trained cadres are concentrated in the party apparatus. Their knowledge and experience should be utilized with maximum effect in the interests of society...

● **Relations between nationalities:** Top of the list (of the causes of recent aggravation) is the lack of concern shown for many years for the specific social, economic and cultural requirements of the numerous peoples and ethnic groups which make up our country. Another, no less important, reason is the inadequate control exercised by the masses over the activities of executive personnel, as a result of which

some officials lost their sense of responsibility... and even abused their positions.

Yet another cause is the active reaction to *perestroika* on the part of corrupt groups... nationalist passions benefit all anti-*perestroika* forces.

● **What to do about it:** We ought to think of improving Soviet legislation on ethnic issues. It is vital, in particular, to increase accountability for kindling ethnic strife and for preaching ethnic or ethnic exclusiveness... it is necessary to draw up proposals to delimit the competence of the USSR and that of the constituent republics and delegate a number of administrative functions to the republics...

## Moscow 'Wonderland'

**Moscow** — Another blow has been struck for creeping American cultural imperialism in the Soviet Union (A Correspondent writes). The Russians have adopted baseball. American ice cream, and next year McDonalds opens two hamburger joints in the capital. Next comes a Russian version of that Californian dream world, Disneyland.

It is planned also to broaden legal guarantees to satisfy the ethnic-cultural requirements of nationalities that live outside their state-territorial entities or do not have any.

We should affirm that membership of the Communist Party is incompatible with nationalism and chauvinism.

● **Agriculture:** For several five-year plan periods now we have invested enormous funds in agriculture, but the payback has been insignificant. Over the past 17 years, capital investment in the development of farming has amounted to 680,000 million roubles... but gross output over those 17 years has grown

only by 25 per cent, with production of grain going up just 16 per cent... in individual regions the situation is even worse.

● **Land leasing:** Much has already been said about lease-based relations... and experience has now been gained in every region, in every zone of the country, in every branch of the agrarian sector, and everywhere it has been producing a good effect. Does this experience not demonstrate that the key to success is in changing the people's attitude to work? This can only be achieved by drastically changing economic relations in the countryside.

Let no-one of us be embarrassed that the means of production will be left at the disposal of the peasant for a long time under a contract with a farm. There is nothing non-socialist in this. This is real socialism, as it places man in the foreground... incidentally, the lease system was widely used in this country until the mid-1930s and then it was abolished.

It seems inevitable that we shall have to adopt a law on leasing... because we still have many officials at various levels who stubbornly prevent others from display-

ing their initiative, ability and economic interest. The law should guarantee the possibility to work in the new conditions to all those who want to, to give them confidence that they will be protected by the state. Moreover, leases should be of a long-term nature and granted for a period of 25-30, or even 50 years.

● **Queues:** There are queues everywhere — in trade, in the services sector, in transport, in public health institutions, and in organizations and offices which have to act on various requests of working people. The problem has acquired such an acute nature that we should tackle it thoroughly and ensure that proper order is established. It is a shame that many highly placed officials calmly look at queues and do not deem it necessary to do anything to eliminate them.

Even in Moscow, people have to stand in endless queues. And in one and the same store, first in line to one cashier, then to another, then to the counter. People stand for hours in queues after work in order to buy simple things that are on sale. How can we tolerate this?

*Leading article, page 11*

## Lithuanians take to streets to press for independence

*Like Estonia, featured last week, Lithuania became independent in 1918 but lost its freedom when Soviet troops invaded the Baltic states in 1939 as a consequence of the Nazi-Soviet pact. Lithuania is a Catholic republic, and 89 per cent of its inhabitants are ethnic Lithuanians. Armed resistance to Soviet rule ceased only in 1951. Below is a summary of recent political protest compiled from dissident and published sources.*

May 23, Vilnius 3,000 people gathered in the city centre to commemorate the deportation of Lithuanians after the Second World War. The area was cordoned off by militia. Speakers demanded a memorial to the victims of deportation. Several called for an independent Lithuania. Authorities used loudhailers to drown out the speakers. Demonstrators shouted "Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!" and sang nationalist songs.

May 25, Riga More than 300 demonstrators marked their support for Lithuanian independence by marching through the city centre. Interior Ministry troops stood by ready to intervene.

June 24, Moscow A committee for the defence of Pranas Ragulis, a jailed Lithuanian dissident, was formed by the Moscow group of the International Society for Human Rights. The committee consists of former prisoners of conscience.

June 24, Vilnius About 4,000 people attended a meeting near the Cathedral, now used as an art gallery, to commemorate the victims of deportation. The meeting lasted about

an hour. The Lithuanian national flag was hoisted but militia demanded its removal. The person responsible for hoisting the flag was detained for an hour and a half. People prayed and sang hymns at the meeting. There were cries of "Freedom! Freedom!"

Sixty thousand attended a meeting at which Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, a high-ranking Communist Party official, called for national sovereignty and for the Lithuanian language to be made the official language of the republic.

June 29, Vilnius About 1,200 people attended a meeting, organized by the group Movement for Perestroika near the building of the official Lithuanian news agency, to protest against the biased information which the agency put out on the demonstration of June 24. The agency management was given a written protest. The

authorities did not interfere. July 9, Vilnius Ten thousand people attended a mass rally organized by Movement for Perestroika. Writers, scientists, cultural figures and party members who attended the 19th party conference addressed the rally. They said the conference had agreed to allow greater use of national languages, to protect the environment, and to move towards greater economic independence for Lithuania.

July 15, Vilnius Seven thousand people attended a protest meeting against the expansion of the Ignatinsky nuclear plant, organized by Movement for Perestroika. The meeting was held near the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet building. The speakers voiced concern about the ecological problems of Lithuania: "Lithuania may become a second Chernobyl," said Prof-

essor Landskis. More than 30,000 signatures have been collected on a petition. Petitions were also addressed to the central authorities. July 20, Vilnius Up to 100 bicycles left Gedeminas Square on a 700-mile "ecological protest" tour of Lithuania.

### THE SOVIET OPPOSITION

They plan to hold ecological meetings in all built-up areas on their route.

The Freedom for Lithuania League, an underground organization formed in 1981, called on Lithuanians to support and co-operate with the Movement for Perestroika, and with other groups acting in defence of the Lithuanian Catholic Church and with "all people of goodwill who have

the fate of Lithuania close to their hearts". The league's new programme was distributed and it was announced there would be a temporary national council of 18 people. The league has restarted publication of its journal, *Ligis*, halted in 1981 because of official reprisals.

July 22, Vilnius A campaign for the release of the Lithuanian poet and journalist, Mr Esmantas Gentautas, in exile in the Komi Republic, began. He is now in a ward with other patients at the TB hospital in Ukhta, and believes that, because of conditions there, he will not survive if he remains for three months as planned.

Mr Gentautas was sentenced in 1980 to six years in a "strict regime" camp and five years of exile for his work published in the samizdat journal *Perspectives*.



# Shultz holds the centre stage in twilight of Reagan era

There used to be a joke in Germany about Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the veteran Foreign Minister: "What's the difference between God and Genscher?" Answer: "God is everywhere, while Genscher is everywhere except Bonn."

There is a temptation here to say the same about Mr. George Shultz, especially nowadays. The stolid, stoical, impassive Secretary of State seems to be always in the air — en route to Asia, the Middle East, Central America or wherever there is still unfinished business.

The Democrats seized on a cutting taunt at their convention to tease Vice-President George Bush: "Where was George?"

Some officials in the White House, jealous of Mr. Shultz's increasing influence in the waning days of the Reagan Administration, have begun to ask in turn:

"Where is George?" But Mr. Shultz is still very much in evidence, and has moved to the centre of the stage in Washington.

One of the strongest cards Mr. Bush can play in the election campaign is the Republicans' experience in foreign policy. And for that he has largely to thank Mr. Shultz. For in the past year the list of accomplishments has been impressive: the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty and the greatly-improved relationship with Moscow, the start of the Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan and the Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia, progress in getting the Cubans out of Angola and the South Africans out of Namibia, the likely ceasefire in the Gulf, the transition to democracy in South Korea, the fragile stability in the Philippines and the solid relationship within the Alliance.

Black spots remain, notably in Nicaragua and Panama, and Mr. Shultz has again run into an impasse in the Middle East. But he has been in office six years and has brought to US foreign policy continuity, stability and the respect of those he has dealt with.

Wherever he went on his 16-day farewell tour of Asia last month he was greeted with the same message: we will miss you. His final hectic schedule is an attempt to take advantage of situations that seem to be ripening at the same time, to make a last stab at problems still unresolved, to journey those extra miles. "What am I saving myself for," he asked, in explanation.

One reason for Mr. Shultz's visibility is that he is the last substantial figure left in an Administration being rapidly depleted of political weight. With his

## Washington View

By Michael Binyon

old rival Mr. Caspar Weinberger gone. Mr. Shultz is at last undisputed master of his turf, the man closest to President Reagan, the pragmatist who has triumphed over his right-wing critics.

His victory was signalled by the Iran-Contra hearings, when in spirited testimony he was able to reverse himself on the White House ideologues who had plotted against him and tried to cut him out of the loop. "Truth is the coin of the realm," he proclaimed, as pent-up emotion tinged his normal, flat, low-key delivery. Since then, the Iran-Contra zealots have been disgraced, the hardliners at the Pentagon have departed, the notorious inter-departmental

feuding has subsided and the conservative siege of the State Department has been lifted.

Mr. Shultz gets on well with the two newcomers, Mr. Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, and General Colin Powell, the National Security Adviser. And they, in turn, work as a team with the man who has always prided himself on being a team player.

Mr. Shultz also runs that section of government least blighted by the approaching end. Foreign policy is the last refuge of a lame-duck Administration, the area where presidential initiatives are still possible and vigorous responses still demanded.

The Israelis may be using the election to wield their clout in Congress and play for time. But the Russians want to get as much done while there still is time. As Mr. Reagan, ageing rapidly and

retaining only a symbolic grasp of day-to-day details, fades from the political scene, it is Mr. Shultz who sets the pace and to whom Congress must listen.

Happily also for him, foreign policy this year is a less contentious election issue than it has been for a long time. Mr. Shultz's patient, pragmatic, right-of-centre defence of US interests is very much the line espoused by both Mr. Bush and Mr. Michael Dukakis. And apart from Nicaragua, and the moribund policy of constructive engagement in South Africa, there is little for the Democrats to attack.

There is also widespread respect for Mr. Shultz within the State Department. Diplomats applaud his fairness, respect for the traditions and instruments of diplomacy, aggressive attempts to get a proper budget from Congress, and

concern for their safety. He is demanding but not capricious or arrogant. He treats his staff with more respect than Dr. Henry Kissinger did. In turn, he insists they respect the hierarchy of power in Washington. He has no time for diplomats who go native overseas.

One senior diplomat recounted how Mr. Shultz likes to talk to his ambassadors before sending them out, and asks them, as they leave, to point to their country on the globe in his office.

Most gesture to Turkey, Belgium, Bolivia or wherever they are to be accredited. They fail the Shultz test.

Only one man got it right: Mr. Mike Mansfield, the veteran Ambassador to Japan. He saw no ambiguity in the question. Unhesitatingly, he pointed to the United States.

## Husain's move over West Bank seats highlights PLO role

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank reacted with mixed feelings yesterday to King Hussein's decision on Saturday to dissolve the Jordanian lower house of Parliament.

The king announced the dissolution of the 60-seat lower house, which includes 50 members from the West Bank, less than 48 hours after halting Jordan's \$1.3 billion (about £764 million) five-year development plan for the West Bank.

These moves are a clear signal that the king is limiting his involvement in the West Bank, apparently in deference to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, whose stock in the area has risen dramatically since the Palestinian uprising started.

Accordingly, pro-PLO leaders in the West Bank, while remaining somewhat suspicious of King Hussein's motives, have responded positively to the moves, which they see as acknowledging the PLO's primacy in the occupied territories.

Mr. Hanna Siniara, editor of the *Al-Fajr* newspaper, closely allied to the PLO, said yesterday: "On the surface, these developments are in line with the resolutions taken at several Arab summit meetings, including the latest Arab summit in Algiers last June."

He added: "King Hussein may be reassuring the Palestinians that he is not interfering in their affairs and that he recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representa-

ive." However, Mr. Siniara said King Hussein would have to demonstrate that he was not severing ties with the West Bank merely to put pressure on the population there, "to make their lives harder, and to make it more difficult for them to continue their uprising".

Pro-Jordanian leaders in the West Bank were surprised and perturbed by the king's move.

Jerusalem (AP) — Police yesterday jailed two prominent Palestinians without trial, including one who had engaged publicly in a rare conference with Israeli peace activists on the uprising in the occupied territories. Eight other Arabs were held for questioning about stoning attacks on Israeli targets.

Dr. Musa Abu-Ghosh, who represented the West Bank town of Ramallah in the dissolved lower house, said it was "a pity and a great disappointment — we were not expecting this".

He was particularly concerned that further steps might be taken to diminish links between Jordan and the West Bank — such as the halting of salaries to the 20,000 teachers and other civil servants in the West Bank, or closing bridges linking the region with Jordan.

That, Dr. Abu-Ghosh said, "would be a catastrophe for the West Bank population. They are bearing a lot, and this would be another burden on

their shoulders in the struggle to free their country."

Dr. Abu-Ghosh, Mr. Siniara and other West Bank leaders, were yesterday awaiting a policy statement by King Hussein to clarify his decision. The subject was briefly discussed by the Israeli Cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday, but Israeli leaders too were waiting for a statement by the king.

Most Israeli analysts were confident, however, that the king would probably not go much further than these two mainly symbolic steps. The analysis said that the five-year development plan halted on Thursday had never really got off the ground and that only a small part of the \$1.3 billion proposed for the West Bank had actually got there.

As for the dissolution of the lower house, they noted that King Hussein took a similar step in 1974 when the Arab summit in Algiers declared the PLO to be "the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people".

The house was only reconvened 10 years later, after the 1984 Amman accord between King Hussein and Mr. Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, and has little more than symbolic value.

It would seem that King Hussein presently feels, as he did in 1974, that he has no choice for the moment but to recognize the primacy of the PLO in what until 1967 was the western half of his kingdom.

## Warming up for the big race



The US Democratic presidential candidate, Mr. Michael Dukakis, taking an early morning walk with his wife, Kitty, in Louisville, Kentucky before addressing a rally of 6,000 people.

## US attempts to salvage Latin America policy

From David Gollob, Guatemala City

Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is due to arrive here today for meetings with the foreign ministers of four Central American countries, pointedly excluding Nicaragua.

His 10-day, nine-nation tour of Central and South America is seen as a last-ditch attempt to salvage the Reagan Administration's Latin American policies from the controversies in which they have become embroiled.

US officials have said that Mr. Shultz intends to take advantage of his visit to emphasize the progress towards democracy made by Latin American countries during President Reagan's two terms in office. This will help to detract from policy failures in Nicaragua and Panama, where the Administration has unsuccessfully attempted to overthrow what it sees as hostile governments.

In Guatemala, Mr. Shultz will urge Nicaragua's neighbours to form a common "democratic front" to increase diplomatic pressure on the Sandinista Government, according to Western diplomats.

A recent crackdown on opposition groups in Nicaragua has strengthened Washington's hopes of convincing the Sandinistas signed last year's Central American peace plan in bad faith.

Nicaraguan leaders have consistently blamed the failure of the peace plan on what they typically describe as the Reagan Administration's "lunatic, criminal policies" of

promoting military solutions to regional conflicts.

"We know that the Government of the United States is pressuring the Central American countries to sign a warlike resolution against Nicaragua," the Nicaraguan Vice-President, Dr. Sergio Ramirez Mercado, told the Sandinista newspaper, *Barricada*, last week. "But there are already governments which have rejected this manoeuvre."

The presidents of Costa Rica and Guatemala have criticized the US policy of supporting the Contra guerrillas. Both, however, are believed to have come under increasing pressure, from internal opponents and the US, to take a harder line against Nicaragua. Nevertheless, the Costa Rican Foreign Minister, Señor Rodrigo Madrigal, denied that an anti-Nicaraguan declaration would result from the meeting with Mr. Shultz.

A Guatemalan government source emphasized that the country's participation in the foreign ministers' conference was purely "to keep abreast" of US policy, and that under no circumstances would the policy of "active neutrality" be abandoned.

WASHINGTON: It is already clear that Mr. Shultz will fail in his move to create an alliance against Managua (Christopher Thomas writes). Mr. Morris Busby, his special envoy, has been trying to prepare the way for a united position. But Guatemala and Costa Rica have already made it clear that the proposed communiqué is unacceptable.

## Collapse of jetty in Malaysia kills 29

Kuala Lumpur (Reuters) — Twenty-nine Malaysians were killed and more than 150 injured when part of a jetty collapsed in the northern part of Butterworth yesterday, as more than 1,000 people queued for a crossing to the island of Penang for a religious festival in honour of Kwan Yin, the God of Mercy.

A port commission spokesman said he thought the jetty was overcrowded.

### Sikh murders

Delhi (AFP) — Ten people, including a woman killed by suspected Sikh militants, and two Sikh separatists shot at a checkpoint, have been killed in continuing violence in Punjab.

### Bomb blasts

Bolzano, Italy (AP) — Three bombs, thought to have been planted by German-speaking extremists seeking autonomy, exploded in the northern province of Alto Adige, injuring one person and damaging about 30 cars, police said.

### Canoe tragedy

Perigueux, France (AFP) — Mrs Margaret Edwards, aged 46, from Harrogate, drowned when her canoe capsized on the Dordogne river in south-western France.

### Ferry pirates

Dhaka — Police in southern Bangladesh arrested six women pirates who had commandeered a ferry and robbed passengers.

### Flight scare

Bangor, Maine (Reuters) — A Cal-Air DC10 carrying more than 350 British tourists from Orlando, Florida, to London and Manchester, blew out several tyres when it had to abort takeoff here, but there were no injuries.

### Killer swarm

Dourges, France (AFP) — Henri Nagtergaete, aged 82, was stung to death by thousands of bees which invaded his garden and stung everything that moved.

## Bid to bolster presidential power

## Moi in new attack on foreigners

By Our Foreign Staff

President Moi of Kenya has made a stringent attack on foreigners, accusing some of being spies and calling for the arrest of any stranger found roaming the countryside without permission.

In a speech to a fundraising rally later broadcast on radio, Mr. Moi said foreigners were visiting Kenya pretending to be researchers while they were spies. He ordered those in charge of research institutions not to release their findings to foreigners.

There is no law barring freedom of movement in Kenya. However, the speech came two days after the Government published a proposed constitutional amendment that would extend from 24 hours to 14 days the legal period for detention without charge.

Mr. Moi, who will mark 10 years in power in three weeks, urged the population and particularly the youth movement of the country's sole legal party, the Kenyan African National Union, to report suspicious strangers to party officials.

Mr. Moi also attacked Amnesty International, the London-based human rights-monitoring organization that

has accused Kenya of repeated violations, including widespread torture of suspects, particularly in political cases. Kenya was a sovereign country and did not need to please foreigners, he said.

It was Mr. Moi's third attack on foreigners in two weeks. First, he criticized religious missions, singling out the US-based World Vision International. Then he accused unspecified foreign embassies of helping clergymen engaged in subversive activities.

Mr. Moi has shown intolerance towards Kenyan clergymen. Bishop Alexander Muge, an Anglican, was prevented from holding Sunday services two weeks ago after he reported a famine in the north of the country in which he said 14 people had died. The Government denied there was a famine, and said there were only temporary shortages.

The proposed constitutional amendments published on Friday — which are virtually guaranteed passage — further consolidate power in the hands of the President and have raised new concern about the independence of the judiciary.

The provision for an independent tribunal to review

the appointment of High Court or Appeal Court judges in the case of incompetence or misbehaviour is to be removed, empowering the President to fire them at his discretion. The amendment would facilitate removal of the eight judges provided to Kenya by the Overseas Development Agency.

The Chief Justice, Judge Cecil Miller, has publicly suggested Kenya should get rid of expatriate judges, although he is of West Indian origin.

Last August Judge Schofield resigned after Judge Miller removed him from a *habeas corpus* case in which police initially denied knowledge of Stephen Karanja, a robbery suspect, but later admitted that he had been shot while escaping. Nevertheless, several exhumation attempts failed to locate the body.

The Chief Justice took over the case, citing the "sensational publicity" it had generated after Judge Schofield summoned the head of Kenya's plainclothes police to appear in court. Judge Miller dismissed the case.

A previous constitutional amendment in 1986 — one of 11 since 1969 — removed the security of tenure of the

Attorney General and Auditor General. The move generated a heated public debate.

The strains between government and church are likely to be increased by the new proposals, which also remove the security of tenure of the Public Service Commission, which reviews the appointment of civil servants.

So far as the extension of the legal detention period is concerned, most of the 70 or so alleged members of the underground Mwakenya movement jailed by the courts over the last two years have been held for weeks if not months before being brought to court. Although all have confessed, there have been detailed allegations of torture.

This neo-Marxist movement claims to be waging a guerrilla war against a "neo-colonialist government", but its only confirmed action has been an attempted train derailment.

Despite Kenya's close links with the West and the formal derivation of its democratic style from the Westminster political system, President Moi declared in 1986 that his Kanu party was supreme over Parliament and the judiciary.

## 'Dissident' artists in Cuba condemned to poverty

From David Gollob, Havana

Nicolas Guillén has trouble remembering things. He has trouble piecing together a sentence. Not too long ago he was offered a job as a street-cleaner. He tried it for a month, but it didn't suit him.

Guillén, a prize-winning film director and nephew of Cuba's poet laureate of the same name, was given electroshock treatment against his will while in prison on charges of "ideological diversion" 20 years ago. At the age of 48, with no hope of ever working in the cinema again, he has taken up painting, selling crude primitivist canvases to charitable friends for a few pennies. Even that, in Cuba, is illegal.

"Being an artist is more respectable in societies where the individual has value," he said in the graffiti-splattered room that he shares in Havana's Vedado district with his 27-year-old wife, Tall and black, Guillén draws arabesques in the air with his hands while he speaks, as if to help him get the words out.

"Here they have made such a point of politicizing artists, that, when people try to experiment, the result is often something that is very critical, very didactic," he said.

explaining his fall from grace in 1968. His sin had been to use Beatles music in a film to promote a new state project to make Cuba self-sufficient in coffee. The song used was "The Fool on the Hill".

"There was no intention of being ironic. I was trying to express the idea of an impossible goal that man reaches out for. But when the state policy flopped, reality turned the film into a boomerang. They accused me of involvement in an assassination attempt and of ideological diversion."

Guillén's problems did not end after the electroshock treatments and two years in a Havana jail. Denied the right to practise his craft and offered only menial jobs, he languished for years until August 1987, when his pro-Communist family had him committed to a psychiatric hospital. There he was given further six doses of electroshock therapy.

"I don't think the authorities made a deliberate effort to break me, (but) once they consider you demented, they don't hear what people do to you," he said.

Tania Diaz is a 50-year-old poet and former journalist. She has not been allowed to

publish her poetry in Cuba since 1970, although she has written five books since then. A parable in the last published book about an unnamed dictator may be to blame, she said.

Never sent to prison, Diaz was gradually frozen out of the system, surviving on the charity of friends.

"I had always been a supporter of the regime," she said at her home in a rundown area of Havana. "But Fidel Castro runs a factory that produces opponents. I am a product of that factory."

Officially, Cuba has no unemployment. However, it seems that dissidents and drop-outs are not included in official figures. Dissidents share with many Cubans the fantasy of leaving, but visas are extremely difficult to get.

Government officials respond to criticism on curbs to freedom by emphasizing the "human rights" of education, health care and work. Dissident intellectuals seldom quarrel with such achievements. "We're not out to overthrow the Government," said the human rights activist, Señor Ricardo Bofill. "All we want is to change ... this Stalinist environment."

## Holy war rages in Hollywood over 'blasphemous' Jesus film

From Ivor Davis  
Los Angeles

Martin Scorsese's film, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, will not be released in the United States until September 23. Only a few people have seen it but already it has stirred up a holy war, with the skirmishes becoming uglier by the day.

So far, the Beverly Hills home of Mr. Lew Wasserman, chairman of the board of the powerful MCA parent company of Universal Pictures, has been picketed by the followers of a fundamentalist Baptist pastor. Among them was a man depicting a bloodied Christ, carrying a cross and wearing the lashes of another man, wearing a business suit and glasses representing a studio executive not unlike Mr. Wasserman.

While this pageant unfolded, a

light plane flew overhead trailing a banner reading: "Wasserman fans Jew-hatred with *Temptation*". (Mr. Wasserman and the president of MCA, Mr. Sydney Sheinberg, are both Jewish).

Members of the Jewish Defence League, who held a counter-demonstration, said the crowd was chanting: "Jewish money, Jewish money."

Another Baptist minister has offered to raise \$10 million (£6 million) to buy the film from Universal and destroy all the prints, asking: "Isn't that enough money for the blood and suffering of Christ?"

The National Council of Christians and Jews has publicly deplored the anti-Semitic turn that the protests have taken, and what they called "the all too familiar scapegoating of Jews". The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, Mr. Roger Mahoney, who

admits that the Church may well find the film "morally offensive", called Mr. Wasserman "a man of the highest integrity".

Scorsese, who once wanted to become a priest, has been trying to bring this story, adapted from the novel by the Greek author Nikos Kazantzakis, to the screen for years. The script is by Paul Schrader, the product of a fundamentalist Protestant background in the Midwest, and known for his forays into controversial material such as teen pornography in *Hard Core*, with George C. Scott, and political assassination in *Taxi Driver*, with Robert de Niro. William Dufosse (of *Platoon* fame), plays Jesus. Barbara Hershey is Mary Magdalene, and Harvey Keitel plays Judas Iscariot.

Religious critics who say they have seen early versions of the screenplay call it "a blasphemous

attack on the Christian Church", alleging that the film depicts a frightened "wimp" of a Jesus, a deranged individual driven by lust who fantasizes about making love to Mary Magdalene, telling her: "God sleeps between your legs." In one sequence, he tells his followers: "Here, take my heart," rips it out of his chest and hands it to them.

Universal Studios are hiring back at the critics, however. In an advertisement, in the form of a letter addressed to Mr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ, which ran as a full page in the Hollywood trade papers and Los Angeles and New York newspapers, it rejects his offer to purchase the film, explaining it would "threaten the fundamental freedom of religion and self-expression promised to all Americans under the Constitution". Such freedoms, the letter adds, "protect us

all. They are precious. They are not for sale." The company also arranged a private screening in New York to which they invited selected religious leaders. The fundamentalists declined, but some 30 others, including the Episcopal Bishop of New York, the Most Rev Paul Moore, attended.

He said: "Overall, I had a very, very positive reaction. I saw nothing blasphemous in it."

If an initial survey of film distributors across the country is any indication, theatres are quite prepared to shun the picture if the controversy continues. A representative of a chain of theatres in the Midwest affiliated with Universal Studios admitted that even the studio was not putting pressure on its distributors to show the film. "Who wants to fight all of Christianity over one film?" he said.



Martin Scorsese: He long wanted to screen the story.



# GEOFFREY CREESE WON'T BE BUYING AN 'F' REG CAR TODAY.



For one thing he hasn't got time.

He flew from Gatwick this morning with the other 97 members of London's leading symphony orchestra, on the first leg of their journey to the Salzburg Festival.

The main reason for not buying one, of course, is that Mr Creese already owns an 'F' reg car.

A 1968 Volvo 121.

"I have driven some 200,000 miles in the car between rehearsal rooms, recording studios and concert halls," he wrote in his letter to us.

"Much of the driving is in London's heavy traffic. Sometimes schedules can be hair-raising to say the least. If I am playing in a concert I cannot

be late so a reliable car is an absolute necessity.

I am sure you receive many testimonials to your excellent cars and I am delighted to add to their number."

Thank you Mr Creese.

We look forward to hearing from you again in another 20 years.

**VOLVO**

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## SPECTRUM

## The man who saw the hole

With the Antarctic spring beginning next month, the damage to the ozone layer could get worse. William Greaves met the scientist who found the hole in the Earth's shield which American computers had decided was too big to be true

If you came across him pushing a trolley through the aisles of a supermarket rather than poring over computer print-outs at the Cambridge headquarters of the British Antarctic Survey, the chances are that you would still put Joe Farman down as a scientist. The tweed jacket, bulging with pipe smoker's requisites, would be one giveaway. And the slash under the ear where he had cut himself shaving that morning would be another. What you would almost certainly not guess from the boyish grin and infectious enthusiasm of this 37-year-old mathematician and physicist is that the message which he has for the world is one of potentially cataclysmic doom.

And if you did come across him at any of the aerosol shelves in that supermarket, it is odds-on that he would be reading the small print on the labels with more than casual interest. For Farman is the man who first discovered a terrifyingly rapid man-made change in the make-up of the Earth's atmosphere which has become universally known and feared as the ozone hole.

When he picked up a set of routine readings from his research team at the Halley Station in the Antarctic spring of 1982 and, two years later, confirmed his suspicions of an alarming depletion in the ozone layer, that friendly atmospheric shield which protects us all from the lethal hazards of ultra-violet radiation, it was scarcely surprising that politicians and industrialists around the world were quick to pour scorn on any talk of global apocalypse.

For if it was proved — as now, beyond all reasonable doubt, it has — that it is the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in aerosol sprays, refrigeration, air conditioning and fire fighting bromine that is doing the damage, a worldwide industry would be put under siege by public outrage.

So the pool-pool merchants went to work. How, they demanded, can the CFCs released by a quick squirt of a hair or deodorant spray in a bathroom in Baltimore or Barnoldswick ever reach the atmosphere, some 15 kilometres above the Antarctic circle?

Farman has one simple answer to any such complacency. "This is the first hard and fast evidence

that man can change the whole constitution of the planet," he says. "When new drugs are developed they are tested for possible side-effects before they are given a licence — not after those side-effects have already taken place. No such licensing is required before potentially dangerous substances are allowed into the atmosphere. So what else are we doing to destroy the life-saving structure of our environment?"

And if that sounds more like philosophical rhetoric than realistic menace, he is equally capable of striking nearer to home. "Although the bulk of the ozone destruction is happening over Antarctica, there is a 5 per cent reduction as far away as latitude 50 degrees South. We now have evidence that something similar could be happening over the Arctic. And at 50 degrees North lies Britain."

Ever since the International Geophysical Year of 1957 spawned a worldwide initiative to examine a previously uncharted development in the atmosphere, the British Antarctic Survey has been sending volunteer teams of young science graduates to spend two years at Halley Station to take — among other things — spectrophotometer readings of the ozone layer and send them back to Cambridge. It was there, nearly six years ago, that Farman sat down for a routine day at the computer — and began to realize that something far from ordinary was happening at the other end of the world. During the single month of October about 20 per cent of the ozone over the Antarctic seemed to have disappeared.

Could his team's spectrophotometer have gone on the blink? There was no reason to believe so, particularly as no other readings had departed from the expected norm. With the caution of all true research scientists, however, Farman held his tongue — and sent out newer and more refined measuring equipment to

his team of young investigators. There was, however, another reason for his reticence to alert the scientific press and roll out what he knew would be the hottest of hot potatoes. Farman's team was measuring at long distance from the surface. The American Nimbus 7 satellite, pumping information on precisely the same ozone layer to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, had been up in space since 1978, and if any such dramatic change was really taking place it must surely have detected it. But from Goddard there was no whisper of alarm.

By October 1984, Farman was sure. The scientific paper produced by him and his colleagues announcing the existence of the ozone hole reached the offices of *Nature* on Christmas Eve that same year and appeared in print on May 16, 1985.

So why had NASA not sounded the alarm? Even today, America is embarrassed by what is now regarded as one of the great scientific "misses" of all time. Figures precisely matching the British ones had indeed been recorded aboard Nimbus 7 — but the computers at Goddard had been set to reject any information which fell outside the parameters of credibility. Statistics which could

have given Farman the corroboration he needed — and given the world two years' advance warning — were automatically stored as "erroneous".

As soon as the Cambridge bombshell exploded, several hopeful theories were propounded that the make-up of the Antarctic stratosphere was being changed by a natural process of photo-chemistry or even that the ozone was not being eroded at all but merely redistributed. One by one, such theories were disproved, and in March last year, Du Pont, the world's major manufacturer of CFCs, acknowledged that it was indeed those compounds which were to blame and promised to

phase them out by the year 2000. Last September an international representation in Canada, although not going as far as Du Pont, signed the Montreal Protocol, agreeing to reduce the world's "consumption" of CFCs by 50 per cent by the end of the century.

So how does the spray from an atomizer make it to the Antarctic? Farman hunts courageously for a layman's explanation. "Chemically, CFCs are very beautiful substances," he says. "But the trouble is that they are indestructible. This does not matter for just as long as they stay beneath the ozone layer, because they are organic and therefore inert."

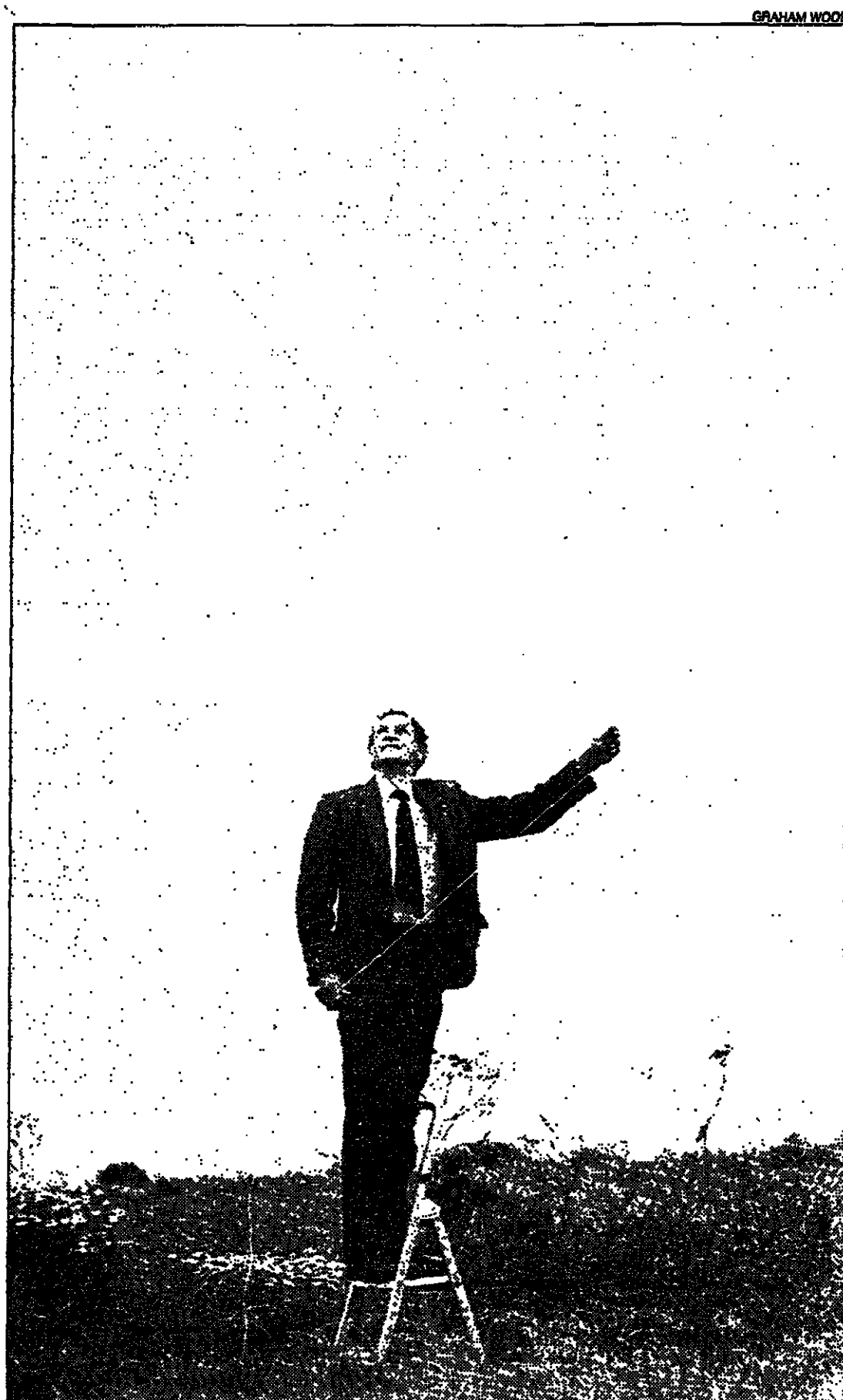
"When they reach the tropics, however, they are forced up through the ozone layer by powerful currents of rising air. Now they are exposed to the sun's ultra-violet radiation and break up into their separate compounds of fluorine and chlorine. By pure good luck, the fluorine has proved to be harmless, but when the chlorine compounds reach the Antarctic in springtime (September and October), the return of the sun after the intense cold of winter turns them into their most damaging form and, at the same time, sucks them back into the ozone layer. No longer inert, they now react with the ozone and reduce it to oxygen."

So rapid has been the demolition in this annual springtime aerial bombardment of chlorine that by October last year 95 per cent of the Antarctic's ozone in the layer between 14 and 18 kilometres above the earth's surface had been destroyed. And even a total world ban on CFCs will produce no immediate relief, because there are already enough of them in the air to double the amount of chlorine in the upper atmosphere. "Whatever we do, the ozone hole will last for at least the next 50 years," Farman says.

A planet denied the protection of ozone is, quite literally, unimaginable. Apart from ultra-violet radiation causing skin cancer, it is also known to have the capacity to damage the genetic material of all living things.

Farman's parting shot is chilling. "We really must stop pumping into the air substances which last longer than a human lifetime. If we are going to damage anyone, then let it be ourselves — and not our children."

**'We must stop pumping into the air substances which last longer than a human lifetime. If we are going to damage anyone, then let it be ourselves — and not our children'**



When the balloon went up: "Man is changing the whole constitution of the planet," Farman warned the world

## Short sharp shock before the mast

Sail training, as the Tall Ships race shows, is tough and adventurous. Now it is taming young offenders

What to do with Britain's young offenders? The violence at football matches at home and abroad has led to a growing chorus for longer custodial sentences. But the problem with prisons, especially for the young, is that they merely provide a training course for more serious crime. According to latest Home Office figures, 66 per cent of young offenders find themselves back in court within two years. This dismal failure record, mirrored elsewhere in the world, has led enlightened prison and probation authorities in America and Europe to test another equally old-fashioned penalty — a dose of salt before the mast. This short, sharp shock aboard a growing fleet of sail-training ships is designed to teach self-discipline, responsibility, respect and the value of teamwork.

Sail training has long been recognized for its character-building qualities, particularly among the Eastern bloc nations who lead the world in square-rigged ships and training facilities. At present, close to 100 traditional vessels are competing in the Cutty Sark Tall Ships race in the Baltic — a month-long jamboree providing an opportunity for several thousand young people from all walks of life with a taste of adventure. Now this concept is being extended to provide young offenders with a fresh sense of purpose. "We deal with root causes, rather than treat symptoms," says Bob Burton, founder of the Visionquest juvenile treatment programme in the United States, which takes young offenders on a three-month sailing voyage as part of a year-long rehabilitation programme. "We take the hard-core



Ship shape: Argentinian youngsters get sailing ship training

kids, multiple offenders who would normally be locked up, and build up their confidence, independence and respect for others in an atmosphere without cells, barred windows or controlling drugs." The results have been remarkable. According to an independent report by the Rand organization, the re-arrest rate for Visionquest internees is 32 per cent during the first year of freedom, against the 75 per cent who graduate into higher crime through America's traditional youth custody system. And all at a third of the cost of keeping offenders under lock and key. So encouraging has the scheme been, that Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, and Switzerland have all set up sailing rehabilitation programmes. Here in Britain, one of the world's leading advocates of sail training, experi-

ence has been limited principally to a privately-funded experiment with male juvenile delinquents from Humberside.

"The results have been quite surprising, and very similar to the American findings," says Colin Longthorpe, Humberside's senior probation officer. His office has so far sent 33 ex-offenders on two-week cruises aboard the Winston Churchill and Malcolm Miller, two 300-ton top-sail schooners operated by the Sail Training Association. Of these they count only two, who failed to join the ships, as complete failures.

For offenders, the first three days can be traumatic. Sharing an often hostile environment with an equally inexperienced crew from all walks of life, probationers invariably spend the first 24 hours trying to buck the system. The second day they sulk, and only during the third do they begin to settle in.

"To start with, they may refuse to get out of their bunks during a change of watch," says STA director John Hamilton. "But one of the golden rules is that no watch can stand down until their replacement is at full strength. So, if one group is forced to stay up on deck instead of going to eat, the rest of crew soon sort things out their own way."

But while the results of this British experiment have been promising, the record of 33

placings in 17 years is poor. "There is no doubt about our enthusiasm for the scheme and its results," says Brian Fellowes, Humberside's assistant chief probation officer. "Our problem is that no money is allocated for this kind of activity. We have only £6,000 from an annual probation budget of £3 million to cover all outside activities and have to rely on private donations to cover the cost of sending offenders to sea."

Comparing that budget with the £25 million spent incarcerating 430 prisoners each year in a new prison near York, and the Home Office would appear to have closed its eyes to turning young offenders away from crime.

This is certainly the impression gained by Morin Scott, who received an MBE for his services to sail training in the New Year's honours list. Scott has spent the past 15 years working on proposals for a 1,000 ton, four-masted barque to carry 80 young offenders and 40 permanent crew of counsellors and teachers (the latter experienced sailors) on six-month character building voyages to the Falklands and Cyprus.

So far, the idea has failed to strike a chord in Whitehall, but with more than 100 sail training vessels visiting London for the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race next year, this jamboree of traditional sail could yet kindle greater government interest in sail training in general and offender rehabilitation in particular.

Barry Pickthall

### TOMORROW

Viraj Mendis must stay: Or must he? The Sri Lankan has become a cause célèbre by taking sanctuary in a Manchester church to avoid deportation. But is he really a victim of political oppression? Brian James investigates



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## SCIENCE REPORT

# Dinosaurs washed up on a tidal wave?

In a river valley not far from Houston, Texas, a team of American scientists have found geological evidence that a vast tidal wave swept the whole Caribbean region 65 million years ago, just as the Cretaceous period — the age of the dinosaurs — was ending. Writing in the latest issue of the *US Journal Science*, the geologists claim that a tidal wave on this scale could only have been caused by the impact of an asteroid, probably five to 10 kilometres in diameter, plunging through the Earth's atmosphere and into the sea.

That spectacular picture fits well with the views of the "catastrophists", geologists who

think that the sudden disappearance of the dinosaurs, along with a diverse range of other living things, was caused by a series of asteroid impacts. Each impact would have thrown up a world-embracing dust cloud, blotting out the Sun and lowering temperatures to the point where many plants and animals could not survive.

Evidence for that view already comes in clays from the end of the Cretaceous period. They are enriched in iridium, an element which is very rare in the Earth's crust but much more abundant in asteroids. Of course, the clinching evidence for the catastrophic view would be the discovery of

the remains of the craters where the asteroids struck. Unfortunately, no crater of the right age has been definitely identified, although if they are all at the bottom of the sea that is not so surprising. But the new work published in *Science* does provide the next best thing — if not the crater itself, evidence of the wave the asteroid created when it struck the sea.

The evidence comes in a puzzling layer of rippled sandstone found in the Brazos River valley, Texas. The sandstone is curious because, at first, there seems no good reason why it should be there. It is a sudden, thin interruption in a thick de-

posit of mudstone. That, as its name suggests, is compacted mud that quietly accumulated over the millions of years that the region lay at the bottom of a shallow, undisturbed sea.

The sandstone layer also has a curious structure. At its bottom it is coarse grained and full of fossil fragments of fish teeth, wood debris, and lumps of broken mudstone. But at its top it is fine grained and marked with a pattern of ripples.

According to Erle Kauffman of the University of Boulder, Colorado, the leader of the team that studied the sandstone, its structure and distribution can be easily ex-

plained if it was deposited "in about one day" by the action of a gigantic tsunami or tidal wave.

Kauffman says that as the tidal wave swept in across the sea, it churned the muddy bottom and deposited debris and large lumps of mudstone. On its way back out, it added a coating of fine sands from shallower coastal waters. Then as the wave gradually died down it imprinted the surface with a pattern of ripples.

The wave must have been gigantic. From the kinds of shell found in the underlying mudstone, the geologists know that the sea was about 100ft deep. To affect these depths so

strongly, the wave must have been 50ft to 100ft high. And Kauffman says that traces of the "tsunami sandstone" can be found as far away as Mexico and Haiti, showing that the wave swept the whole Caribbean.

That suggests that only a massive asteroid impact could have been responsible. Indeed, Kauffman hopes that he may one day be able to track the asteroid down at the sea's bottom. By mapping out the "tsunami layer" around the Caribbean he hopes to calculate where it landed.

Alan Anderson

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# TIMES DIARY CLEMENT FREUD

Shop assistance seemed an excellent idea: boxers and actors, politicians, agony aunts, authors and weathermen were to stand looking famous in Covent Garden establishments, serving in shops, wine buttlings in restaurants and controlling such second-hand clothes barrows and wheelie stalls as had owners who undertook to cut in for charity with some or all of the day's profits. It was all handsomely organized, and I was there.

Lunchtime found me at Rules in Maiden Lane, an eating house in which I recall a Graham Greene character keeping assignments. (On consideration, it must have been two of Graham Greene's characters). Rules has a meat trolley that is trundled hither and thence among the tables and beneath its shining silver dome there crouches a massive, succulent sirloin of beef, also a clutch of Yorkshire puddings and a basin of rich gravy, with carving knife and fork and sharpening steel in attendance.

This was my empire. "Beef on tables 30 and 34," said the waitress. "Coming, ma'am," said I, pushing the great silver vehicle towards its next port of call, raising the lid to display the wares. Before the war it was customary to tip the carver tuppence, and you tipped him before he started to carve so that you would get the right piece from the right end of the joint in the quantities you had in mind.

I carved, I asked my punters whether they would like their beef rare or medium, with bits of the crispy fat from the outside. I sought their views on more or less gravy, placed the Yorkshire pudding on its base so that it lorded the plate... and no one tipped me a bean, though a couple from North Carolina appraised of my status — "Sorry we haven't a chef with a tall white hat, we're using this politician instead" — was nice enough to say they wished their own politicians would do something useful like carve Aberdeen Angus beef.

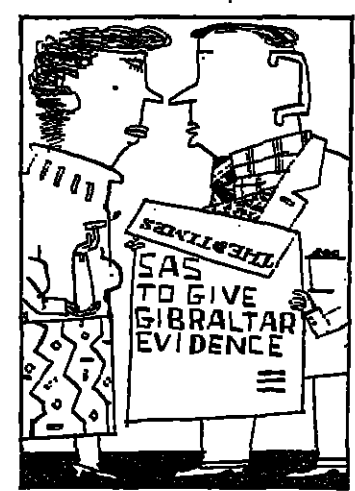
At 3.30pm I was billed to appear at the ice-cream counter at Neal's Yard. Had the folk there been kind, "thank goodness you're here; we have had a sluggish, miserable, inauspicious time; now it will all look up." Instead I found a queue of 80 people shuffling forward which it had done in similar numbers since 7am.

I took orders, collected money, gave change, dispensed the goods, plonked in plastic spoons when confections were served in tubs rather than in cornets and behind me a professional assembler of frozen creams and yoghurts and sundae catered to my demands.

In such conditions it is hard to bear in mind that one is "a celebrity". I mean there was I putting together six cones, two strawberries with frozen yog and a mango juice when a girl in faded jeans came up and asked me to autograph her knee. "Below Frank Bruno but not as big."

One forgets about shop assistants: when the queue was the length of three cricket pitches an aggressive woman in a red hat said: "What is the exact content of your ice-cream?" "Go away," I said, and took the next order. She stood there seething with indignation. "This is a charitable venture," I said. "If you persist in being tedious, Aids victims will suffer." "I have a right to know," shouted the woman, even as some kindly people in the queue offered to duff her up. It might have got ugly had not one of the career assistants come forward with words like sugar-free, wholesome, organic and taken her 75p in return for her cone.

BARRY FANTONI



"That's assuming, of course, they don't fly from Gatwick"

Where, asked a foodie who had come to London to make outroads upon my waistline, would we get the best dinner? I said best soup was at 21a Friar Street: Thai chicken, lemon grass and cream of coconut; the Savoy Grill's Omelette Arnold Bennett is renowned; best game is at Wilton's and the Brasserie St Quentin in Fulham Road makes superlative puddings. "Let's be on our way," said the gourmet.

If you drink an expensive wine with each course, restaurants do not mind being used as staging posts for peripatetic meals. At the Savoy they were mildly pleased to serve an upmarket Meurault and take an order for the omelettes. After writing good stuff about the Poteries, Arnold Bennett came to London and wrote lesser books, like *Grand Babylon Hotel*, set in the Savoy; and the hotel, as was the custom of the day, named a dish in his honour.

Bennett being a medium sort of chap with a penchant for smoked haddock, was awarded Omelette Arnold Bennett — which is actually brilliant: flakes of poached smoked haddock are added to cream and egg yolks and grated cheese and ground pepper; stuffy beaten egg white is blended into the mixture which is set in hot butter in a frying pan, then anointed with heavy cream and grated cheese and browned beneath a grill giving a set base under a creamy cheesy topping containing a soft yielding centre.

We got a solid lump of hard set egg and when we ate no more than a forkful to ensure it tasted no better than it looked, they apologized and some time later produced an even nastier version though it was twice as large. I am not a believer in *la vieille cuisine* when modern technology can out-perform it, but if you persist in using the name of a classic dish the classic *modus operandi* must be retained also. What we got might have been an Omelette Eddie Edwards — though I doubt it will catch on.

In New York almost any day between midday and midnight a poignant drama is played out in front of office workers or theatre-goers. A white van pulls up. Two policemen, guns and handcuffs ready, help escort an unwilling homeless person into the van to remove him to psychiatric hospital for assessment.

Project Help, as this service is called, is the answer by Ed Koch, the Mayor, to the plight of homeless mentally ill who are, according to a city psychiatrist, Dr Luis Marcos, slowly killing themselves in the streets. He says that, for the sake of human dignity, they must be given the chance of treatment. I have been out with Project Help and watched people being taken forcibly to hospital. It was a very disturbing experience.

The New York Civil Liberties Union fought for the release from hospital of Joyce Brown, a vagrant, alias "Billie Boggs", after a television star with whom she became obsessed. She was the first "test case" of a homeless woman picked up by Project Help from 65th Street in Manhattan, where she had lived for a year by the warm air outlet from an ice-cream parlour. Libertarian psychiatrists argued that she liked living on the streets, defecating there because there was no lavatory and burned and tore up money given to her to show her resentment. City psychiatrists said she was severely mentally ill. The court, faced with opposing views, gave her and the libertarians the advantage.

Within days the New York Civil Liberties Union transformed her into a mini-celebrity. She was seen lunching with them at classy restaurants, shopping in Bloomingdale's and giving TV performances and lectures to universities on her right to live as she had. But there is another side to the story. Months later, when I was in New York, she was found unconscious in a squalid women's hostel and taken into intensive care suffering from epileptic seizures.

That is the ethical dilemma confronting the US and many other countries which have followed a policy of closing the old asylums and replacing medical paternalism with self-reliance. It is happening all over the developed world, and even in some developing countries. In Italy, where the institutions closed officially in 1978, the *abbandoni*, as they are called, litter the railway stations, a pathetic, anguished horde.

Many of those who sleep rough are, according to some psychiatrists, too ill to make a rational decision. They cannot be free while in the grip of delusions, their heads filled with voices or taunted by inner

demons which control their thoughts. They are no more able to seek or consent to treatment than a man in a diabetic coma.

In Britain things have not yet gone as far. Only one of the major mental hospitals has closed, although many more are being run down and their patients turned out. For some that means a return home which may mean disaster for families. There are few good community hostels, and any aberration of behaviour starts the slide down to dismal lodgings and the streets.

In Britain the Mental Health Act 1983 lays down rigorous conditions under which a patient can be hospitalized against his will. One or two doctors, a social worker or close relative must agree that it is necessary for his own health and protection and that of others. But all too often the spirit of the Act is not being observed. One difficulty is that people suffering from schizophrenia, when interviewed, can conduct themselves lucidly.

In addition, social workers (and some doctors) are more concerned about depriving a patient of liberty than with giving the help he may need, forcing us to wait for someone

who is mentally ill to commit a crime or to attempt suicide before we act.

In the last few weeks I have come across three such cases:

● A young schizophrenic became acutely tormented and sought protection in hospital. After a few hours he left, which, as a voluntary patient, he was allowed to do. He walked to a motorway and into the path of an oncoming lorry. The driver told the coroner he would never forget the horror of the impact and the blood on his windscreen.

● A 22-year-old begged doctors in two hospitals to detain him because he feared he was going to harm someone. The doctors refused to take away his freedom. A few days later he committed suicide.

Very few schizophrenics are

violent, but when neglected their torment sometimes turns on those they love most.

What has gone wrong? Unlike the situation in America, where the only criterion for detention is dangerousness to others, our 1983 Mental Health Act provides sufficient powers to include the health of the individual. But in the rush towards libertarian enlightenment, they are not always used.

There are now so many safeguards and procedures that the mad jigsaw of checks and counter-checks works against the interests of patients and families. Social workers trained in libertarian principles seem to have extended the interpretation of the Act to place individual freedom and choice far above the patient's well-being and health.

Doctors are often unwilling to recommend compulsory hospitalization because they have then to face the mental health tribunals set up to ensure that patients are not wrongly detained; in many cases they know that within weeks the patient will deteriorate and the whole procedure start again.

The hospitals themselves,

under the pressures of government policy to empty wards, are reluctant to admit anyone with long-term problems. There is less tolerance of difficult patients in hospitals and, in addition, staff are being encouraged to leave and set up private nursing homes (in the US, this private-sector care of ex-patients is a \$16 billion industry).

Mentally ill people are being given fewer choices. Community care is being thrust upon them as restrictively as a straitjacket. In a recent survey by Professor Julian Leff, patients were asked if they wanted to leave hospital and go into the community. More than half said they would prefer to stay and a further third were unwilling or unable to communicate any preference.

Often the only people prepared to take on the burden are ageing and terrified parents. The human rights organizations quote John Stuart Mill's definition of liberty: "The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs..."

Today we have given the sufferers liberty even if it means neglecting or destroying themselves. But this dubious freedom has been won at the cost of freedom of others — especially parents — who are unable to live in safety or with peace of mind.

The author presents *Whose Mind Is It Anyway?* on BBC1 tonight.

Marjorie Wallace questions the 'rights' of the mentally ill

## Freedom that's a threat

Bernard Levin

# SOS: funds overboard

Cliches are all very well, but some things do not resemble a Greek tragedy, and if Mr Sam McCuskie is tempted

to give an impersonation of the *Eight Against Thebes* he will have only himself to blame if the audience emerges under the impression that they have been watching *Charley's Aunt*. I have no views worth expressing on the rights and wrongs of the seamen's strike itself, unless you count a sentimental feeling that an honest old union thickie like Mr M is always preferable to somebody like Sir Jeffrey Sterling, but there is one peripheral aspect which has fascinated me from the beginning of the action, and which I think deserves analysis and comment.

I assume that the leaders of the National Union of Seamen took legal advice at the beginning of the strike, and took further advice as it went on, especially when the court actions began and the fines and sequestrations were handed down. I assume further that in seeking such advice they did not go to Sir Drumsince Theocroration, QC, but a more respectable and trustworthy legal authority. If my suppositions are correct, the advice must have been, however sadly it was given, that what the union was doing, and even more what it was contemplating doing, would inevitably bring the law down on its head, with no possible defence.

Then what? Well, then they went right head and did it, and continued to do it for quite a long time. Experts have calculated that the defiance of the law by the union's leaders, not just the belatedly repudiated wildcats, has already amounted to a million pounds in fines and costs, and if the judge who has just given the union's leaders 21 days to prove their good faith is not satisfied that they have done so, it may well, as the thing drags on, come to a great deal more; indeed, if the leadership had not finally backed down at the last

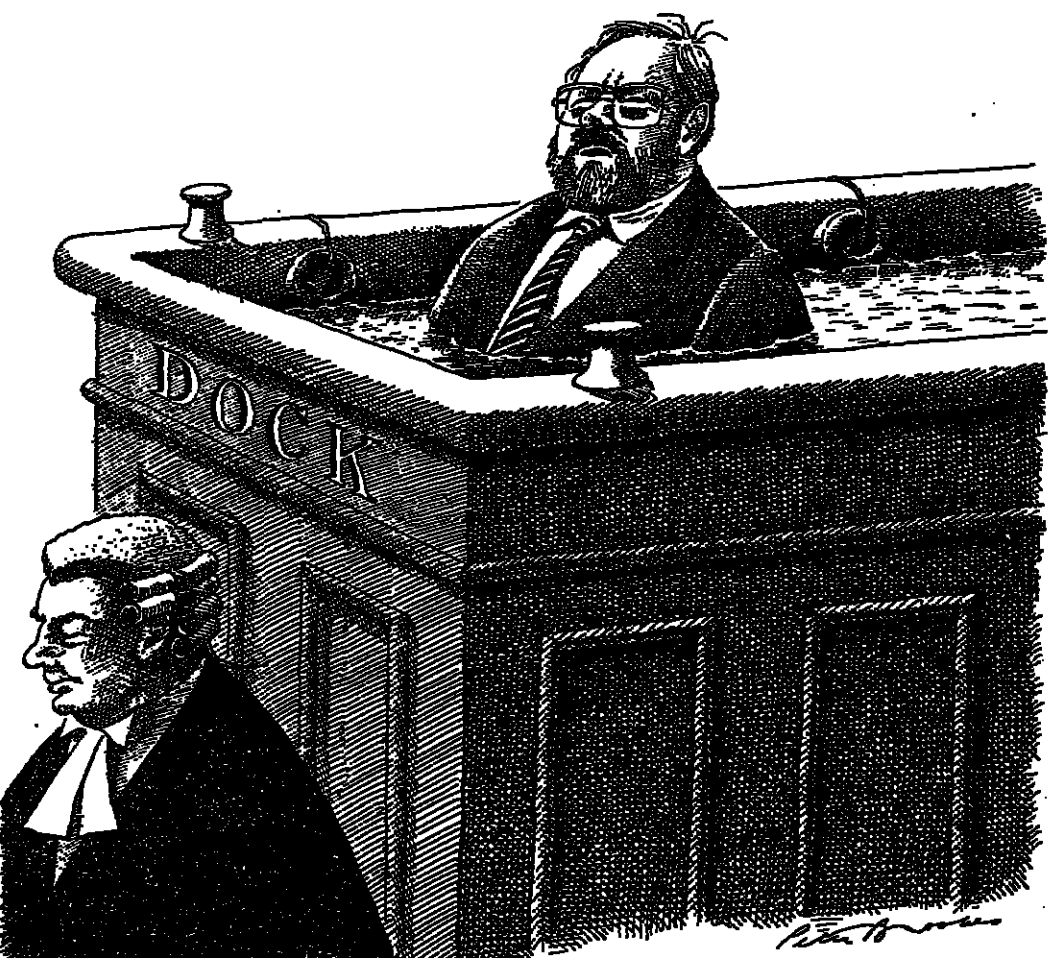
minute a few rounds ago, the fines levied would almost certainly have crushed the union entirely and driven it into bankruptcy.

Now that sequence of events must have been outlined by the lawyers consulted by the union; moreover, the union leaders would certainly have realized, without any nodding wigs, that just such an outcome would inevitably result. Nor is that only an assumption; Mr McCuskie said, in these very words, "If forced to choose between protecting the property of the union or standing by my members, I will always choose the latter".

There is a dreadful fallacy in those words, which I shall come to in a moment, but Mr McCuskie has a more urgent case to answer. He knew by then that there were no circumstances in which the union could win the legal battle, for the obvious reason: he was breaking the law. No doubt he believed, or persuaded himself that he believed, that it was wicked capitalist law, designed to induce phony pay and rickets in working-class babies; still, he knew it was the law. A man may know that and yet ignore it; every burglar does so nightly. But the burglar gambles on the chance that he will not be caught; Mr McCuskie, who is not a burglar, had already been caught, and was being more thoroughly caught every hour.

What has happened when a man like McCuskie would not steal so much as a penny stamp or break a speed limit, thinks it no shame to break laws which concern more important matters, on the basis of a belief that he may choose which laws he will keep and which defy?

You may remember Clay Cross; you certainly remember the miners' strike; perhaps you have forgotten the scenes outside Mr Eddy Shah's printing works



in Warrington, and even more those on the Grunwick picket line. But what it is crucial to remember is the encouragement given to that lawlessness not only by those who identified themselves with it but by many who should have known better, and in fact did. I am convinced that the tide which swept Labour out of office, and has kept it out for nine years (and looks like keeping it out for a good many more), began with a growing realization that the law itself was not safe in Labour's hands — a realization that has grown even stronger as the years have passed and the evidence has piled up.

You would have thought that mere self-preservation, let alone motives more noble, would have induced the Labour leadership to shout aloud in condemnation when the violence on Mr Scargill's picket lines began; instead, what we got from them was equivocation and cowardice, offered in the hope (and in some cases the conviction) that the nation would not notice. But the nation did notice, and tucked away the evidence. And even after a great deal more, in one quarter and another, of the same weasel anthem — "While we do not condone violence, we nevertheless condone it" — the Labour

Party rushed to the support of the NUS, singing the second verse: "While we do not countenance defiance of the law, we nevertheless countenance it".

This won't do. But the reason it won't do is not that I disapprove of it; it is that the law, in societies like ours (that is, democratic societies), is the framework which prevents the polity flying apart, and there is nothing else which will do that most necessary work of ensuring that things do not fall apart, and that the centre can hold. Take a pickaxe to that structure of laws, make holes in the brickwork and bend the iron bars with which it

is reinforced, and we might as well prepare our epitaph. Indeed, it is already chosen: *homo homini lupus*.

But that does not exhaust the culpability of the seamen's leaders. Go back to that quotation from Mr McCuskie: "If forced to choose between protecting the property of the union or standing by my members, I will always choose the latter". Fine words, but they need closer examination, for there is, as I said, a fallacy in them.

What is the difference between "my members" and "the property of the union"? Where did the property come from? A legacy from Mr McCuskie's great-grandmother? A whipsaw from the NUS Christmas party? Or did it fall off the back of a lorry? No; it came from the members' subscriptions, and Mr McCuskie, in throwing away a million pounds of it, is as guilty as if he had poured it down the drain.

If I were a member of the NUS (an empty threat, even for a man who has rowed across the Rhone and shot the rapids of the upper Rhine), I would take him back to court, this time to justify his use of my money or to be judged liable to repay it. Since I am not in his union, I offer the idea to any member who objects to being mulcted of years of paying into the union's coffers to enable his leader to strike poses.

Local councillors who have behaved no worse, and often acted under a genuine and plausible belief that they were within the law, have been charged in immense and ruinous sums because they were not, after all, acting lawfully. The NUS leaders knew perfectly well that they were putting "their" assets at risk; it would be salutary for them to be held to account for doing so. Merchant seamen have done many brave deeds over the years; here is one more that needs doing.

Commentary • GEOFFREY GOODMAN

## Prescott alarm bells

It is quite extraordinary how rattled and lacking in political self-confidence so many Labour MPs appear to be as they depart for the long summer recess. Deeply unhappy with the way their own leadership has handled things in recent months, especially with the style of Neil Kinnock, they are unable to take comfort in the growing discontent in the Tory ranks. In addition they face the increasing worry of John Prescott's challenge to Roy Hattersley's position as deputy leader.

This issue is now causing far more anxiety both inside and outside the Parliamentary Labour Party than the dual challenge to the Kinnock-Hattersley leadership from Tony Benn and Eric Heffer. While the latter — which has never been seen as a serious threat — will be swept aside without too much difficulty, it is no longer certain that Hattersley will dispose of Prescott's challenge with equal ease. Indeed, although I would still discount them, there are persistent rumours that Prescott could win sufficient trade union votes to squeeze Hattersley out.

These predictions have been intensified by the decision of the National Union of Public Employees' executive to back Mr Prescott (a decision still subject to a branch ballot) and by the fact that the Transport and General Workers' Union has yet to commit itself. Prescott's chances would begin to look very rosy indeed if the country's largest union decided to back him.

To find out we shall have to

wait until the eve of Labour's annual conference in two months time when the TGWU delegates meet at Blackpool to make their final decision. I believe, however, that even if they were to cast their votes in favour of Prescott, Hattersley would still scrape home.

What is remarkable is that the Prescott challenge, once dismissed as a mere marginal irritant, should be causing so much pain to the Labour leadership. The reason is that the focus of the issue has shifted and is now seen by some Labour MPs and union leaders as an indirect expression of dissatisfaction with Kinnock, who has placed much of his own authority on the line in supporting Hattersley against Prescott.

For let us be quite clear about the implications if Prescott were to become deputy leader. It would not be seen as a mere promotion for the robust shadow spokesman on energy; it would be a severe rebuff to Neil Kinnock's personal prestige and his authority in the party.

Indeed a Prescott victory might do far more damage to Kinnock than to Roy Hattersley. At worst Roy would shrug it off, plot on hopefully and console himself with an increased output as a writer, at which he excels and which he clearly enjoys. But Neil, his own leadership authority floundered and saddled with a deputy he had tried to persuade not to stand, would be severely damaged. For Kinnock to have Prescott as his deputy in the present climate of public opinion could be electorally as promising

for him as it would be for Michael Dukakis to have had Jesse Jackson thrust on him as a vice-presidential running mate.

That may be grossly unfair to John Prescott, who is a likeable, tenacious, dedicated socialist and trade unionist. But fairness doesn't carry many votes with the British electorate in its present mood. Credibility to handle complex national and international problems does. And that is where Roy Hattersley scores so strongly. After all he is the one remaining figure in the Labour leadership with real cabinet experience.

This is not how John Prescott sees it. He is persuaded not only by reasons of political vanity and personal *amour propre* that he has a great deal to contribute as deputy leader. He thinks he could do the job far better than Hattersley.

It may not be immediately clear to the world at large why this is so but Prescott certainly sees himself as a standard bearer for radical policies; as the man with much closer links with rank and file opinion in the party and the unions; and with none of Roy Hattersley's media-style fashionableness. Prescott is a hardened son of the seamen's union with a record of trade union militancy going back to the seamen's strike 22 years ago. He argues that he would be a more formidable campaigner for Labour throughout the country. He regards himself as a foot soldier *par excellence* in the great crusade not only to galvanize the Labour vote and shake up party awareness but also to arouse

support from those who are not yet voting Labour.

None of this cuts much ice with the present leadership. They and many others find Prescott's justification for his damaging challenge a bit much to stomach. As one of Kinnock's aides described it to me, the Prescott argument is "pure codswallop". They regard the whole prospect as quite appalling, demonstrating to the voters once again that Labour is a divided, squabbling, uncertain opposition, no match for the likes of a Thatcher government. As the polls constantly remind them, it is precisely this image of the party as perpetually disunited which most damages Labour in the eyes of the electorate.

Kinnock is fully aware of the work he needs to do over the next two years to persuade the electorate of Labour's readiness for government and of his own credibility as a future prime minister. That is why he has always described the Prescott challenge as "an unnecessary distraction", for it can only make his task more difficult. Worse, all this fuss is over a post created in 1931 as a consolation prize for Herbert Morrison.

Winston Churchill once privately described the role of leader of Her Majesty's Opposition as "the most thankless task in British political life". I suspect that Neil Kinnock might agree. The author, a former industrial editor of the *Labour government's* counter-inflation publicity unit, 1975-76.

AUGUST 1 ON THIS DAY 1963



Tony Benn, now MP for Chesterfield, was MP for Bristol South-east from 1950 until disqualified from sitting in the Commons on the death of his father, the first Viscount Stansgate, in 1960. The seat was then won by the Conservatives by Malcolm St Clair, who undertook to resign if Benn ever became eligible to stand again.

### MR BENN QUICK TO RENOUNCE PEERAGE

From Our Political Correspondent

Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn last night became the first person to renounce his peerage under the Peerage Act. Immediately the words "La Reine le veult" were pronounced in the House of Lords, signifying the Royal Assent to the Act, Mr Benn left the gallery as if a starting pistol had been fired.

Accompanied by his wife and his mother, Lady Stansgate, he hurried downstairs and handed to Sir George Goldstream, Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, an instrument of disclaimer renouncing for himself the Stansgate peerage. This had been witnessed by Mrs Benn.

Placing his right thumb on the seal, Mr Benn said: "This is my deed and my act." Sir George received the document and gave Mr Benn a draft of the certificate which will be issued by Lord Dillhorne, the Lord Chancellor, confirming that the instrument had been received and registered. The Government are con-

fidently expected to apply to the Speaker for the writ to be issued for the by-election there before the Commons rise for the summer adjournment. Since 24 hours' notice of intention is needed, and no such notice had been submitted last night, it may be reasonably assumed that Mr Redmayne, Government Chief Whip, will make the application at the beginning of business tomorrow. This would mean that if there were to be a contested by-election it would be held on or about August 22.

When Mr Benn met political correspondents he said: "I am the first man in history, by Act of Parliament, is prevented from receiving a hereditary peerage. I am statutorily immunised."

When he came from the House of Lords he was under the impression that there would be no contest... But later an indication came that Sir Oswald Mosley's Union Movement might enter the lists and force a contest. In London the movement said that they would consider adopting a candidate...

Mr Malcolm Harris, Conservative chairman in Bristol South-east, said his association had always supported the undertaking to resign given by Mr St Clair to Mr Benn two years ago. He praised Mr St Clair for his dignified bearing during the two difficult years he had been a Bristol member. In the circumstances his association would not oppose Mr Benn until the general election.

Ten minutes after Mr Benn had left the office of the Clerk of the Crown, Lord Altrincham, who is a freelance journalist, arrived to hand in his instrument of disclaimer. He was accompanied by his wife. They will in future be Mr and Mrs John Grigg.

مكتبة الأصيل





1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

## RAISING HOPES

Mr Gorbachev's message to the élite of the Soviet Union's Communist Party at the special Central Committee plenum last Friday was that he intended to propel his reform programme full steam ahead — whether or not they liked it. Using last month's national party conference as his mandate, the Soviet leader rode roughshod over many of the interests they represent to confirm, and in certain respects to accelerate, his original timetable for political and economic change.

In selecting so uncompromising an approach to the Central Committee, Mr Gorbachev may have ensured that he becomes the Soviet Union's first presidential leader next April, presiding over the new legislature that should be elected by direct and indirect elections. Although the electoral details have yet to be decided (by a newly established Central Committee commission), this schedule now looks likely to be kept. In his concern to maintain the momentum, however, the Soviet leader may also have stored up trouble for himself in the months and years ahead.

The proposals he set before the Central Committee contained three potential points of friction. Chief among them was the announcement of plans for a sharp reduction in the number of full-time party employees and the redeployment of those made redundant. The Soviet bureaucracy has grown for the same reasons that bureaucracies everywhere tend to grow. But the apparatus of a party with a monopoly on power has particular attractions. It has therefore creamed off many trained specialists who could be more productively employed elsewhere.

Work in the apparatus offers security; it carries a special cachet, and it brings material privileges — in the form of food supplies, access to clothes and consumer goods, holiday homes and cars — which set its members apart from the rest of the population. It also offers the strong likelihood of work in Moscow or in the capitals of the republics. And while its members complain about their workload, responsibility for mistakes or failures is usually carried not by the party, but by the government organization.

In China, where attempts have been made to reduce the apparatus by transferring party cadres to government and economic organizations, passive resistance has been fierce. It will be no less so in the Soviet Union.

The second sticking point is likely to be agricultural reform. On Friday for the first time, Mr Gorbachev put his weight fully behind long-term leasing of land to peasants, family farms and private small-holdings. He also proposed the wholesale demolition of the

administrative structure set up by Leonid Brezhnev to implement his ill-fated Food Programme. His plans to dismantle Brezhnev's agro-industrial complexes will encounter the same bureaucratic resistance as his plans to prune the apparatus. Long-term leasing, however, raises objections of a different order.

Leasing is seen by many Soviet ideologists as tantamount to handing the land back to the peasants. Not only would it appear to set the clock back to pre-collectivization days (implying that collectivization was a mistake), it also raises the spectre of Menshevism. Urban Bolsheviks always regarded the allegiance of Russian peasants to the revolution as suspect. They believed that their traditional ties — to their land, their families and their livestock — would always come first.

Mr Gorbachev has now stated publicly that unless the strength of these ties is recognized, Soviet agriculture will decline further. His guarantees to the peasants on land reform, to be backed up by law, will displease those party officials who feel that too much has already been conceded to individuals at the expense of the collective.

The third area where Mr Gorbachev could encounter resistance is in the already aggravated area of nationalities policy. His address to the Central Committee contained eloquent words about safeguarding the rights of minorities, even if they do not have their own territory, and outlawing national chauvinism (a term which includes extreme Russian nationalism). Russians living in non-Russian parts of the USSR might well start to feel uneasy. At the same time, he condemned groups who, he said, were using nationalist passions to undermine perestroika.

For the Armenians, however, who saw Mr Gorbachev angrily dismiss their case for taking over Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan, Mr Gorbachev's words will ring hollow. On the general question of inter-ethnic relations, it will seem, he is all for equality and self-determination, but when a specific issue arises, he views it with the hardened prejudice of the Soviet bureaucrat and confirms the status quo. Having raised hopes of change in theory, he dashes them in practice.

Now, in his speech to the plenum, Mr Gorbachev has raised the hopes not only of individual nationalities, but of peasant farmers and of many ordinary people who feel that the privileges of the party have made them into second-class citizens. The question is whether their hopes will be fulfilled; whether, when the inevitable opposition to these policies makes itself felt, Mr Gorbachev has the political will and the authority to see them through.

## UNDERCUTTING CROCKER

Mr Michael Dukakis and the crypto-fascist fringes of the white right in South Africa would seem at first glance to have nothing in common — beyond perhaps a blinkered approach to anything outside their own domestic political agendas. Both the American Democratic Presidential candidate and Mr Eugene Terre Blanche of the AAWB, the Afrikaner resistance movement, could, however, cast long shadows over the Angolan peace talks which resume in Geneva today.

When Mr Dukakis — yielding to Mr Jesse Jackson's demands — promised to sever US military aid to Dr Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA forces and to recognise the MPLA Government in Luanda, he may have believed he was making a cheap trade for Mr Jackson's support. He also, deliberately or inadvertently, undercut a major American diplomatic initiative. Tough bargaining in Geneva as the peace talks enter their most critical phase may tempt the Cubans and Angolans to wait instead for a Dukakis Administration to relieve them of the obligation of giving anything away.

Domestic political considerations — the lure of a few more votes during the October municipal elections — are also the prime motive behind the growing and raucous protests of the far right in South Africa against a peace process which could install a Swapo government in Namibia. Peace may require more courage than war but President Botha and his generals are facing the potent slogan "Sell-out".

The commitment of the Angolans, Cubans and South Africans to negotiations which hold out the first faint hope of peace in the region has often seemed extremely tenuous; nevertheless it has held. That commitment will now be severely tested in Geneva where US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr Chester Crocker, will attempt to convert the broad brush strokes of the recent New York agreement in principle into a precise time table for the withdrawal of Cuban and South African

forces from Angola and the implementation of UN Resolution 435 on Namibia.

That this peace offensive — which began with quadrilateral talks in London in the spring — has advanced thus far is a tribute to Dr Crocker's determination to secure, albeit in the dying days of the Reagan Administration, a peaceful settlement in Namibia. But success, if it comes, will have many fathers: the Soviet Union's reappraisal of its involvement in sterile and expensive regional conflicts and its new willingness to nudge both Cuba and the MPLA government towards a settlement; a renewed desire among members of the Organisation of African Unity for a withdrawal of foreign forces from African soil and an end to the Angolan civil war; and South Africa's painful, if belated, discovery of the costs of fighting a war without any clear political objective; the realisation that it was trapped in a conflict it would not lose but could not win without paying an increasingly unacceptable price in money, aircraft and — especially — the lives of white conscripts.

But if the costs of the continued conflict are rising, the price of peace could still seem dauntingly high for any fainthearts in Geneva today. For the MPLA Government it will mean fighting, or talking to Dr Jonas Savimbi and his UNITA forces without the protection of the Cubans. For Dr Castro it will mean the reabsorption of 55,000 unemployed soldiers into his already distressed economy and a possible loss of face and influence in the non-aligned movement.

For South Africa's generals it will mean acceptance of the fact that for the last 10 years they have squandered lives and resources for no discernible gain. So finely balanced are the considerations in the minds of the combatants that well-intentioned observers will hold their breath. It is a pity that, like the South African far right, Mr Dukakis has been unable to hold

### Iran-Iraq war

From Mr S. A. Moid  
Sir, Iran's acceptance of the Security Council resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf War (report July 23) has been hastily interpreted in speculative reports as demonstrative of Iran's war weariness, or realisation of its isolation within the world community, or a victory for moderate forces in Tehran.

The step was no doubt prompted by the endorsement of the Iranian demand that the world community should identify the aggressor which was unreservedly voiced at an important Islamic conference held last February in Islamabad under the auspices of the London-based Islamic Council. The relentless efforts made by the council's secretary general, Salem Azzam, in making a success of the conference and in quietly pursuing a follow-up behind the scenes have largely gone unnoticed.

The conference was a unique occasion on which official delegations from the contending countries of Iran and Saudi Arabia sat together for the first time to deliberate on the crucial contemporary problem of forging unity and co-operation among the Islamic countries. The participants unequivocally

branded Iraq as the aggressor country, and the conference called on the Islamic Council and its secretary general to establish a commission comprising of leading Islamic personalities to prevail upon Iran and Iraq to end the hostilities.

The conference and the quiet mediatory role since played unobtrusively by the council's secretary general have served to reassure Iran that the condition it had set out had already been fulfilled and that the stage was set for Iran's acceptance of the ceasefire. This was already evident at the end of the Islamabad conference, when Ayatullah Jannati, leader of the Iranian delegation, stated in Islamabad that "war was imposed on us, and peace is now being imposed on us. We will end the war in the larger interest of Islam".

Yours sincerely,  
S. A. MOID,  
International Centre for Islamic Studies,  
144-146 King's Cross Road, WC1,  
July 25.

### Airport congestion

From the Managing Director of IATA  
Sir, Speaking in the Commons on July 19, Mrs Thatcher suggested that the airline industry was not

interested in some relaxation to night restrictions at Heathrow and Gatwick presumably because the airlines did not bring up this matter during recent discussions with Mr Channon (Parliamentary report, July 20).

In fact, IATA, which is a trade association representing scheduled airlines, met with the Department of Transport on December 16, 1987, and subsequently made a submission on this very subject. Its main aim was to obtain relaxation in the constraints applied (or proposed) by the DoT, without worsening the overall noise climate at either airport. The situation bedevilling the industry this summer was very clearly foreseen.

A reduction in the noise restrictions at Heathrow and Gatwick would do no more than allow the airlines to have a small share of the benefit arising from the huge investments they have made in an effort to reduce engine noise and exhaust emission nuisances.

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL GLEESON,  
Managing Director, International Air Transport Association,  
26 Chemin de Joinville,  
PO Box 160, 1216 Coligny,  
Geneva, Switzerland.  
July 25.

## Doubts on UK credibility in space

From the Chairman of The Space Society

Sir, Mrs Thatcher's parliamentary statement on Hotel (report, July 26) contradicts the facts. The Government has not been asked to commit £4 to £6 billion to the development of Hotel. The Government has been asked for £3 million for each of the next five years in a strictly limited, phased programme to support the equal contributions of the firms involved in order to prove the concept of the project.

This would enable those firms to establish their credibility in the international space markets, and particularly with the European Space Agency, to which they will turn for cooperation and support for the development programme. Given the chequered history of UK involvement in ESA and the need for such cooperation, establishing such credibility is vital.

Credibility is not only important abroad, however. Industry's motivation to undertake longer-range research and dev-

elopment which may be of greater benefit to the country as a whole than to their own bottom line must be seriously undermined by the Government's position on aerospace. "Let them build cars". With this active discouragement of Britain's leading edge in technological effort, the Government invites a brain drain of the present shortage.

Hotel could provide the UK with a preeminent position in the technological race in the rapidly homogenising EEC, a position of great national pride and economic benefit, as leaders of a team based on international resources and funding.

We welcome the appointment of Tony Newton, and call on the Government to reassess its position on Hotel.

Yours sincerely,  
GARRY E. HUNT, Chairman,  
The Space Society,  
1 Birdcage Walk,  
Westminster, SW1,  
July 27.

## Quest for a more democratic EEC

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, Your leader on the European Commission (July 23) poses a crucial problem but fails to offer any solution to it. The problem is that of how the Commission, whose powers have, as you say, been significantly increased under the Single European Act, can be made "more accountable, loosening it from the grip of government". You offer only the pious hope that governments should appoint good Europeans.

Accountability, however depends not upon pious hopes but upon political realities. In democratic systems, there are two main ways through which institutions can become accountable. The first is through direct election, as advocated by M Giscard d'Estaing; a proposal which you dismiss with the comment that the Commission is not a legislature — as if the separation of powers model which animates the Fifth Republic might not prove the right prototype for the Community to follow.

The second method is to make the Commission responsible to the European Parliament, as proposed by the 1984 Draft Treaty for European Union. This could have very wide implications, since it would mean that the Commission, instead of comprising nominees of the member states of varying political affiliations, would have a particular political colour — left or right as the case may be — depending upon the majority in the European Parliament.

What is clear is that the Single European Act and the completion of the internal market will have important constitutional and political implications for the working of European institutions — implications which Europeans have hardly begun to explore. It is to be hoped that the British Government will adopt a constructive approach in the search for a more democratic Community and not content itself with the institutional conservatism symbolised by your leader.

Yours faithfully,  
VERNON BOGDANOR,  
Balliol College,  
Oxford,  
July 25.

### Identity cards

From Lady Staughton  
Sir, Mr J. M. Ross asks (July 22) how we register the entire population in order to issue identity cards to people who need them.

I should like to point out that the NHS took over the data from the Central National Registration Office in 1948. Anyone who is within the right age group may realise that the number on their medical card is the same as that on their old identity card.

The 98 family practitioner committees in England and Wales are therefore in the position to assist with the issuing of identity cards. Their local data base is unique and covers the 98 per cent of the population who are registered with an NHS doctor.

### Anglican Communion

From the Reverend Edward J. Lewis

Sir, The views of the General Secretary of the United Reformed Church regarding the future of the Anglican Communion (July 23) are most interesting. It must be remembered, however, that the ministry within the nonconformist churches is separate from the priesthood of the Anglican Church. These churches have chosen to place themselves and their ministers outside of the

Catholic orders of ministry, as understood by the Church of England, and the Church in Wales.

If the decline of nonconformity in England is as drastic as it is here in Wales, any thoughts of unity will soon only be of academic interest. As Anglicans, we must look to the views of those who also maintain Catholic Order, namely the Church of Rome and the Orthodox.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD J. LEWIS,  
The Vicar,  
Tregaron, Dyfed.

### Toxic dumping

From the High Commissioner for Guyana

Sir, The Times of June 17, in a report headlined "Third World awakes to toxic trade perils," quotes Greenpeace as listing Guyana among nine countries planning "to sell dumping land to the industrialised North" for the disposal of toxic industrial waste. I wish to state categorically that, in respect of Guyana, no such plan exists.

The issue of industrial waste disposal concerns us all. During the recently concluded summit heads of government of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Guyana's President, Desmond

## Plight of minorities in Romania

From Mr Mark Almond

Sir, Having returned from a sad journey through Romania on Sunday I should like to welcome Woodrow Wyatt's commentary "Ethnic we must help" (July 27), but may I add a few qualifications?

Although the minorities in Transylvania suffer specially refined indignities and repressions, everybody in Romania is a victim of Ceausescu's regime. If anything his intention is to degrade the Hungarians and Germans to the abominable conditions already reigning in Old Romania.

The so-called "systemisation" of life which will "abolish the distinction between town and country" by herding the peasantry into tower blocks from which they will be driven to their fields has already been implemented in two counties in the south.

The burden of these insane projects has reduced the country to penury. In the face of their mutual sufferings much of the ancient feuding between the nationalities in Romania has given way to a common sense of despair and loathing of the tyrant.

Unfortunately, it is vain to hope that the Soviet Union might put pressure on Ceausescu to mend his ways. No doubt because of his current difficulties with his own minorities (including 170,000 Hungarians), Mr Gorbachev kicked off the new Hungarian party leader, Karoly Grosz, for permitting anti-Ceausescu demonstrations. By contrast he has honoured the Romanian dictator with the Order of Lenin.

Most recently, at the Warsaw Pact summit, Karoly Grosz was humiliated by the "unanimous" choice of Ceausescu to reply to the toast of General Jaruzelski. Romanian propaganda made great play of this to hammer home the lesson.

Ceausescu's Government has made it impossible to give direct aid to the suffering peoples of Romania, but the refugees who have found haven in Hungary can be helped. As many as 2,000 refugees a month come destitute, ragged after their flight through the hills and the wire.

At the moment, in addition to food, the need to replace their

clothing is the most urgent task. Anyone able to should direct their help to Father Timar Mihaly, Szent Anna Pletbánya, H-4024 Debrecen, Béke ut 21 sz. The refugees are in desperate need of it. Yours truly,  
MARK ALMOND,  
Wolfson College,  
Oxford,  
July 27.

From Dr John Zamelica  
Sir, Woodrow Wyatt is entirely justified in deploring the treatment of the Hungarian minority in Romania. But he has only a selective feel for history. The principal reason for the collapse of the Habsburg Empire was that its non-German and non-Hungarian elements were profoundly dissatisfied with their status.

The Kingdom of Hungary had in particular much to answer for. Ever since the Ausgleich of 1867 the Magyars wasted no time in imposing their policies of vulgar chauvinism on the Romanians, Slovaks, Croats and Serbs.

In the spheres of education, culture and political development these people received nothing but contempt and cynical suppression from Budapest. It was a policy born of stupidity, maintained by nationalism and finally destroyed at the first historic opportunity.

The Romanians had suffered perhaps most under the Magyar yoke. The Hungarian minority in Romania is, of course, in no way responsible for the pre-1914 period. But there is a sense in which it is now paying an old debt.

Elsewhere the Hungarians have fared rather well. In Yugoslavia, for example, they have since 1945 enjoyed full rights and most of the time a higher standard of living than in Hungary itself. And this despite the fact that when they invaded parts of Yugoslavia in 1941 they behaved with a brutality that shocked even the Germans.

Everyone with any sense of justice should be horrified at the present-day suffering of Hungarians in Romania. But nobody with any knowledge of east central European history should be greatly surprised.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ZAMELICA,  
24 Park Parade,  
Cambridge,  
July 27.

### Peril from the sea

From Mr J. M. Shearman

Sir, Your correspondents' (July 20, 23) agreement on the likelihood of sharply rising sea levels and the consequent dangers of flooding in coastal areas is particularly relevant to the Norfolk Broads.

Here we are already at grave risk whenever prolonged north-west gales coincide with high tides and in February of this year suffered flooded farmland and the death of hosts of fish when salt water penetrated the river system. The effect of salt water inundation on the fragile environmental and economic pattern of the area would be both devastating and long-lasting.

While these risks are well known, however, there are currently no plans effectively to protect the Broads from the North Sea. The water authority abandoned the Yare barrier scheme some years ago and now relies on expensive piecemeal maintenance of deteriorating earth banks while the Broads authority continues a programme of "research".

We may indeed take heart from Mr Gummer's promise (July 23) to "act at once", but many of us are gravely concerned that he has no effective plans on his desk right now to protect the Broads from the disaster which becomes daily more inevitable.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN SHEARMAN,  
Manor House,  
South Walsham,  
Norwich, Norfolk,  
July 24.

### Back in the fold

From Dr G. A. Lee

Sir, Colin Rogers, Gloucestershire, must be one of the 31 places in England designated as "thankful villages" (letter, July 27). This term was applied by Arthur Mee, in his excellent, though somewhat pious, survey *The King's England*, to villages which lost no men in World War I.

There are three in my own county of Nottinghamshire (Maplebeck, Wigley and Wyal) — an unusually high concentration since the county contains only 1 per cent of the population of England.

Yours faithfully,  
G. A. LEE,  
University of Nottingham,  
Department of Industrial Economics,  
University Park, Nottingham.

### Brake on enterprise

From Mr David Selby

Sir, It was revealed in a recent *Panorama* programme on mortgage frauds that it is the policy of the Miras (mortgage interest relief at source) centre, which deals with £6 billion worth of tax relief, to destroy the vast majority of application forms within six months of receipt. Contrast this with the Government's legislation which imposes burdensome record-keeping requirements on businesses.

On VAT, in particular, the length of time a business must keep its records was increased to six years in 1985. Businesses cannot arrange with Customs and Excise an agreed list of records to be retained. Special permission is needed before any records and accounts can be disposed of before six years have elapsed.

These requirements are particularly onerous on small businesses. They cause serious storage problems; much time is spent in adding new information to existing business records; resources such as stationery and computer facilities are wasted. Many businesses could satisfy Customs and Excise that their VAT returns are correct without preserving all these records.

Far greater scope for fraud and therefore loss to the taxpayer lies with Miras applications than with small business VAT returns. If anything, the record-keeping requirements should be reversed.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID SELBY (Chairman,  
Tax Committee, Association of Independent Businesses),  
Trowbar House,  
108 Weston Street, SE1,  
July 28.

### Divided spoils

From Mr S. E. Wilkins

Sir, The split of the DHSS "will not be very difficult" according to your leader of July 26. Departmental officials who were concerned with the marriage arrangements 20 years ago will think this is a gross understatement of what will be involved in setting up the new administrations.

The division is certainly not a simple game of ministerial musical chairs, as your leader implies. The departmental financial and establishment implications will be as complex as they were at the amalgamation, and, as before, could impinge on officials' career prospects, not always to their advantage.

Yours faithfully,  
S. E. WILKINS (Principal,  
Finance Department, DHSS,  
1962-75),  
4 The Flexion,  
Onery St Mary, Devon,  
July 27.

From Mr William Bell  
Sir, Now that the Department of Social Security has been separated from the Department of Health, can we expect that the headquarters of the former will be known as the DOSS House?  
Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM BELL,  
Arkhova,  
7 Rossward Road,  
Kirkcubright,  
July 28.

JOHN WILSON















## MONDAY PAGE

هكذا من الأهل

## When love is a good workout

A new wave of American-style high-cost, high-tech health clubs may become 'the singles bars of the Eighties'

Just when you thought it was safe to slouch in front of the telly, the aerobics boom burst out and marathon fever fizzed to fun runs, the Americans are coming to get us back into physical jerks with a jolt — on the latest pneumatic equipment and scientifically sprung floors.

Are we ready for it? Do we need it? Will we buy it? David Giampaolo is convinced that we are, we do, and we will. This former Mr Florida "body-sculptor" is head of the aggressive Health and Fitness Corporation of America's new UK division and the man with a mission to turn the British into a nation of workout aholics.

"In the US they don't ask do you work out, they ask where do you work out" is one of his stock lines. And Giampaolo expects at least 6,000 Londoners to fork out £800 plus an annual fee of £360 to say "the Barbian Health and Fitness Centre", which will be opened by The Princess of Wales tomorrow.

If they do — and so far 2,600 have — the battle for the British bulge will escalate, with at least one new centre opening each year.

"The potential of the industry is mind-blowing," Giampaolo enthuses. "I policed for this job, I begged for it — I knew this country was ripe. It's where America was 10 years ago — the awareness, the demand for healthy living!"

"We don't promote our clubs as pick-up places, of course," Giampaolo, 29 and single, continues conspiratorially, "but in America it's health clubs now, not singles bars. You see what you're

getting, know what I mean? You know you've both subscribed to a healthier life."

Subscriptions have been scaled in phases, starting at £80 for those brave souls bold enough to have booked site unseen, and now up to £360 on top of the hefty "joining fee" of £800 — and rising.

Much play is being made of the "natatorium" (swimming pool) in advertisements being placed in magazines such as

suits. Members are, to date, 40 per cent female, and the exercise areas are, as Giampaolo puts it, "co-ed".

Julie Barron, aged 22, is pedalling away furiously on a Lifecycle to the beat of Hot Chocolate from her Walkman "to drown out the sound of the drilling". She has used the club since January and paid £180 for her annual subscription, on top of the £800 joining fee. "I think it's good value," she says.

The equipment is formidable. Each Liferower with its video screen and vivid graphic display costs about £2,500. Suzie Ater, a "kinesiology and dance major" from Texas, coached me on the Keiser pneumatic exercisers which do away with the need for weights, working by air pressure at the press of a foot pedal or button. "Many of the men like these," Giampaolo confides, "because people can't see what weight they're working."

In the "cardio-vascular area" video screens with the latest stockmarket figures will be suspended over the recumbent exercise modules ("a must for those with back problems," says Giampaolo) so City brokers can keep a wary eye on the market while they try to pedal away its stresses. Is this wise?

Giampaolo laughs — somewhat nervously — at the suggestion that the screens might provoke the very heart attack the hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of gleaming chrome and cheerful pastels were meant to prevent.

Victoria McKee

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Out of Hollywood, but neither hip, flip nor phoney: Bridget Fonda says "the worst problem for my generation is our loss of innocence"

## Child of the Sixties

Bridget Fonda is a child of the Sixties. Daughter of Peter, niece of Jane and granddaughter of Henry, she was born in 1964, at the vortex of a heavy culture. Her father freely admitted to smoking pot and getting high on his favourite drug, LSD, while her aunt, clad in black leather, was loudly critical of the establishment over its involvement in the Vietnam War. *Easy Rider*, the 1969 film odyssey of two hippies on motorbikes, was her first movie. Her mother, turned Peter into a cult figure. For a while he represented, for a whole generation, where it was at, man.

With that kind of background it would not be surprising to meet a new Fonda who had grown up into a typical Hollywood brat of the tried-it-all, seen-it-all, know-it-all variety. Or she could, along with the new generation of preppy puritans, have been a very antithesis of her swinging dad. In fact Bridget manages to be neither hip, flip nor phoney. She belongs to that rather nice wave of new young things who acknowledge the responsibility as well as the freedom of the sexual revolution. She is here to promote her film, set in the Sixties, with the unfortunate title *Shog* (in America the shape is apparently a dance) and to complete another Sixties film, *Scandal*, about the Profumo affair, in which she plays Mandy Rice-Davies.

She has never met the real Rice-Davies, and wants to know whether, at the time of the scandal, Rice-Davies qualified as a call girl or a kept woman. I venture an opinion and she says, "Now you tell me: I've played her as a kept woman."

Gradually, as if revealing a secret she can no longer keep, she says: "I am very much in love with my English boyfriend, Lee. Drysdale, an actor/writer who I met 18 months ago. We are going to get married and I want us to have two or three children. Part of the wants to have a big wedding with everyone I know there and another part just wants it to be him and me."

But the kind of marriage I want ours to be like Larry and Maj-Hagman. They have been sort of godparents to me and I admire the strength of their marriage, it is forever. I am not just in love with Lee I respect him and want to be friends with him for the rest of my life. Even in this business it is possible to resist temptation which just involves a conquest anyway. I have already made the greatest conquest so anything after that would just be like sopping second best, a booby prize."

Her own parents divorced when she was six. She says she does not remember how she felt about it but her mother, Peter's first wife Susan, has told her she was very upset at the time. "I guess I blocked it out. My brother Justin and I used to see our father during the holidays and if he has said he wanted to be a different kind of father, more loving and closer to his children than his own father ever was, he achieved that. He was always very expressive of his love towards us. Once, when I was at summer camp he sent me an ostrich

Bridget Fonda says she has learnt from the excesses rather than the successes of her famous family. But the daughter of Peter and granddaughter of Henry, in London to play Mandy Rice-Davies in *Scandal*, is no preppy puritan, Heather Kirby writes

egg in a shoe box all the way from Africa. It was really neat."

Her childhood memories are mixed. After the divorce, when her father tried unsuccessfully to force her mother to drop the Fonda name, they moved to a mansion outside Los Angeles. "It was just a one-storey house," she says. "I shared a room with Justin until I was 14, when our maid/nanny left to get married and he moved into her little room, but it was a fantastic house, surrounded by eucalyptus trees, carob and elms. We also had a tennis court and there were eight boys at the mansion on the hill and twice as many dogs so we all played together and had a really great time."

Her recollections of an idyllic childhood were shattered recently because, since her mother's second divorce, she has sold the house and moved. "That house was the one constant thing in my life and after I left home to study in New York I used to go back and look at it when I was on vacation but the last time I was there whoever bought it had bulldozed it to the ground and everything I loved was gone. I parked up the lane and had a good cry. My mum said she felt terrible about it but I understand why she had to sell it."

Although she is 24, the vulnerability of a child from a broken home is still evident not just when she talks sadly about her lost home but also the almost inevitable concomitant of divorce — the stepfather. "I hated him," she says.

She is realistic enough to acknowledge that having the famous Fonda name has its problems. She had a tough time at acting school with her fellow students to get to be treated equally.

"I did consider changing my name but it does no good to run away and I am proud to be part of the Fonda family. Also I consider it more of a challenge to swing it in their shadow."

But it did cause me major problems. There was a great deal of pressure on me to be good, I felt as if I didn't have room to fail. I realized that the only way I was going to overcome the problem was to address it head on and to face the scariest thing: to be bad.

When they asked someone to do an improvisation I put my hand up even though I was really nervous and anxiety ridden. The teacher would criticize me until eventually the other students came to realize I was just the same as them, something which I knew all along, of course."

She manages to dismiss the Fonda influence in other areas of her life. Although she admires Aunt Jane for the inspiration she has given thou-

She wants to know whether, at the time of the scandal, Rice-Davies qualified as a call girl or a kept woman

Mandy Rice-Davies in the early 1960s



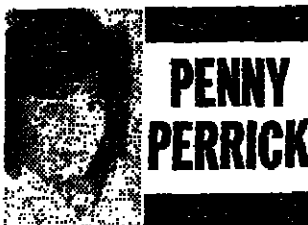
## Taking the con out of convenience

I had hoped to be the only journalist in the country never to mention the name of Sir Ralph Hopern, but these hopes have been dashed. Sir Ralph has got himself into linguistic difficulties of epic proportions and such is my fascination with words and meanings that I feel bound to help him out.

Sir Ralph said last week that his relationship with the model Fiona Wright was one of "convenience". This decided man is clearly unaware that convenient is a word that has been hijacked by estate agents and now means the opposite of what he takes it to mean. Just as "desirable" means over-priced and "picturesque" means cramped, "convenient" means very inconvenient indeed.

My own flat is described as convenient for all the facilities of the Earls Court Road. Translation: the minute I step out of my front door I crumple into a pile of polystyrene cartons from various local take-aways and have to skirt my way gingerly around groups of merry men who are hanging around the Tube station drinking lager at 7.45 in the morning. Were I to move somewhere convenient to the M6, I feel in my bones that it would be up a rutted track and without central heating.

Convenience foods are so over-salted and over-sauced that they could end up giving you a heart attack, and there is nothing so inconvenient as to be attached to a spaghetti



PENNY PERRICK

junction of tubes following a bypass operation.

I was recently invited to supper by a man who had just bought the latest convenience, a microwave oven. I must admit it was fun to watch the plates of shop-bought convenience carry go circling around, but the inconvenient fact was that the oven could only deal with one plate at a time, so I was left to watch my food grow cold as my host's dinner performed its promiscuous

inside the glass door. I can see that (in)convenience eating requires a new set of table manners. One can hardly compliment one's hostess on her chicken Kiev if it is obvious that it came from Marks & Spencer and one can't be polite about banding the vegetables around if they arrive, freshly microwaved, on the plate.

Artificial fibres are promoted as very convenient since they don't crease. And indeed they don't; they snag up into little balls instead. They also, unless the temperature is less than zero, make you feel as though you had caught fire. A white linen suit is not the least bit convenient but there isn't a woman in the world who doesn't look dazzling in one, and when I wear mine the

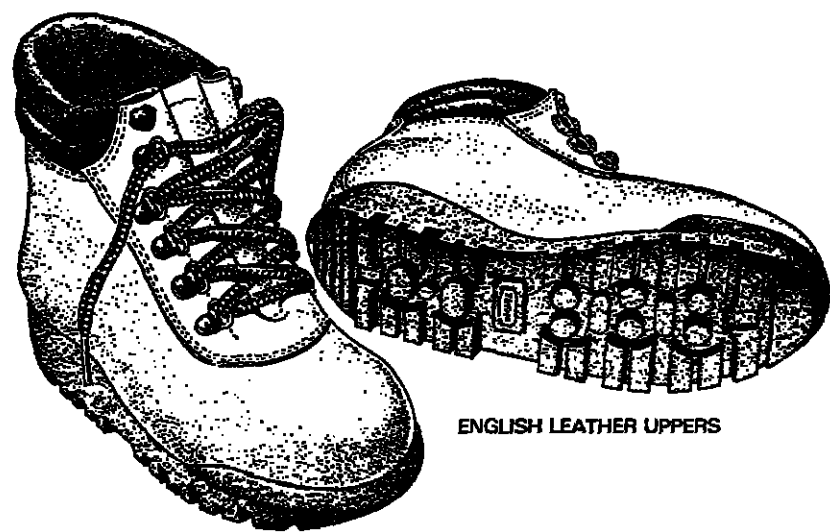
appreciative looks I get make me feel that the world is quite a convenient place to live in after all.

To return to Sir Ralph. He has discovered that his "relationship of convenience" had turned out to be anything but. It put an end to his marriage and caused him to appear in the press as a figure of fun rather than the brilliant tycoon who had hitherto graced the pages of the business sections of the more serious newspapers. If you wish to retain a certain measure of gravitas, it is actually far more convenient to stay at home with your wife, just as it is more convenient to scramble your eggs in a saucepan over the gas than trying to microwave them in a plastic bowl.



David Giampaolo and equipment: "I begged for this job — I knew this country was ripe"

## THE TIMES LONG LIFE WALKING BOOTS



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These hardwearing walking boots are ideal for hiking and general walking. Made from an full grain water repellent English hides and Cambrelle lining, they will protect your feet from most weather. To add to their weather-proofing, a full bellows padded tongue is stitched in on three sides, and your ankle is fully supported by a padded leather collar. Strong "D" rings and hooks, plus 37½" laces will secure your foot firmly. The "Vibram" ecological sole has an Ethelene vinyl acetate wedge and a contoured footbed for additional comfort, grip and impressive shock absorption. One of the features of this particular type of boot is its lightness, which is achieved by the EVA wedge; each pair of size 8 weighs just 2lb 7oz. The boots are extremely flexible and require very little breaking in.

Sizes available are: 4-12 (full sizes only, and wide fittings). Your feet are catered for in every possible way, in comfort, quality and value at only £49.95 per pair.

All prices are inclusive of post and packing. Please allow up to 21 days for delivery. If you are not satisfied your money will be refunded without question. In addition to our guarantee you have the benefit of your full statutory rights which are not affected. Send orders to: The Times Walking Boots Offer, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1BL. Tel: (0322) 53316 for enquiries only.

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## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Jane Rackham

## EBC1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax AM.**  
6.35 **Edgar Kennedy in How to Clean House (b/w).** 6.55 **Weather.** Breakfast time with John Stapleton and Gary Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25 regional news and weather at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27.  
8.35 **News Rogers (b/w).** Episode six of the classic adventure serial 8.55 **Regional news and weather.**  
9.00 **News and weather 9.05 But First This!** presented by Andy Crane beginning with **The Pink Panther Show.** Three cartoons (r). 9.25 **Heartbeat (r).** (Cee-fax) 9.50 **Laurel and Hardy.** Cartoon (r).  
10.00 **News and weather followed by The Littlest Hobo (r).** 10.30 **Play School (r).** 10.55 **Five to Eleven** with pupils from St Anselm's Primary School, Totting Bec, London.  
11.00 **News and weather followed by Underdog Kingdom (b/w).** Episode four of the 12-part cliffhanger 11.30 **Superman** starring George Reeves.  
12.00 **News and weather followed by The Garden Party.** Joining Viv Lumsden and Eamonn Holmes at the Glasgow International Garden Festival today are Mike Reid from **EastEnders** and Thelma Barlow of **Coronation Street.** 12.55 **Regional news and weather.**  
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. **Weather.** 1.30 **Neighbours.** Mike and Scott take their revenge on Charlene.  
1.50 **The People's Court.** Judge analyzing various types of obscenity (r). (Cee-fax)  
2.40 **Bazaar.** Inexpensive but fashionable children's clothes.  
3.10 **The People's Court.** Judge Wagner rules in the case of a woman who is trying to recover the money she gave her sister to look after

## BBC2

- 6.55 **Open University: Maths - Modelling Turkey.** Ends at 7.20. 9.00 **Cee-fax.**  
1.30 **Pinky's House (r).** 1.25 **Bric-a-brac (r).** 1.35 **Cee-fax.**  
2.00 **News and weather followed by Home on Sunday.** Cliff Michelson meets the dancer and choreographer Gillian Lynne at her Kensington, London, home (r). (Cee-fax) 2.55 **Exploring Photography.** Part three - landscape (r).  
3.00 **News and weather followed by One Man and His Dog.** Host three features through Irish sheepdogs and their dogs (r). 3.50 **News, regional news and weather.**  
4.00 **Dr Kildare.** Episode five of the six-part medical drama starring Jack Hawkins (r). 4.35 **Odyssey in Paradise.** The first of three bird watching programmes presented by Bill Oddie from Papua New Guinea (r).  
4.50 **Fine Charlie Chan in Paris (1935, b/w)** starring Warner Oland as the oriental sleuth, in this adventure chasing a murderer through the Paris sewers. Directed by Lewis Seiler.

## BBC1

- 6.55 **Wales.** 6.55-7.00 **Wales.** 7.00-7.10 **Wales.** 7.10-7.20 **Wales.** 7.20-7.30 **Wales.** 7.30-7.40 **Wales.** 7.40-7.50 **Wales.** 7.50-8.00 **Wales.** 8.00-8.10 **Wales.** 8.10-8.20 **Wales.** 8.20-8.30 **Wales.** 8.30-8.40 **Wales.** 8.40-8.50 **Wales.** 8.50-9.00 **Wales.** 9.00-9.10 **Wales.** 9.10-9.20 **Wales.** 9.20-9.30 **Wales.** 9.30-9.40 **Wales.** 9.40-9.50 **Wales.** 9.50-10.00 **Wales.** 10.00-10.10 **Wales.** 10.10-10.20 **Wales.** 10.20-10.30 **Wales.** 10.30-10.40 **Wales.** 10.40-10.50 **Wales.** 10.50-11.00 **Wales.** 11.00-11.10 **Wales.** 11.10-11.20 **Wales.** 11.20-11.30 **Wales.** 11.30-11.40 **Wales.** 11.40-11.50 **Wales.** 11.50-12.00 **Wales.** 12.00-12.10 **Wales.** 12.10-12.20 **Wales.** 12.20-12.30 **Wales.** 12.30-12.40 **Wales.** 12.40-12.50 **Wales.** 12.50-1.00 **Wales.** 1.00-1.10 **Wales.** 1.10-1.20 **Wales.** 1.20-1.30 **Wales.** 1.30-1.40 **Wales.** 1.40-1.50 **Wales.** 1.50-2.00 **Wales.** 2.00-2.10 **Wales.** 2.10-2.20 **Wales.** 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CHANGE ON WEEK	
FT 30 Share	1488.7 (+9.3)
FT-SE 100	1853.6 (+8.8)
USM (Datastream)	167.42 (+0.36)
US dollar	1.7110 (-0.0275)
W German mark	3.2047 (+0.0259)
Trade-weighted	76.5 (+0.1)

 Executive Editor  
 David Brewerton

## Five held in \$80m share sale inquiry

 From Alan McGregor  
 Geneva

Five people — three in France and two in Switzerland — are under arrest in connection with a financial scandal, involving, police believe, \$80 million (£47 million) to \$180 million of investors' money.

The arrests were made simultaneously with Swiss police raids on offices of Kettler Investment (registered at Vaduz, Liechtenstein, with offices in Geneva and Lugano), Equity Management Services (Nyon, near Geneva), and Falcostrust Financial (Geneva).

A British national resident of Geneva for several years is due to appear in court on Thursday, together with a woman manager of the Nyon company, in connection with the affair.

According to the investigating judge, Mr Laurent Kasper-Ansermet, the affair is such as to risk seriously harming Switzerland's reputation as a financial centre. The Swiss authorities are requesting the extradition from France of the people held there. One, apprehended by police near Cannes, is said to be the central figure involved. He is also a director of Intervest Financial Corporation of Panama, linked with Kettler Investment.

In French custody are Mr Carl Davies (British), Mr Garry-William Read (Canadian) and Mr Jazzen Aziz Moosja (Indian), husband of the Nyon manager.

The alleged offences relate to unofficial over-the-counter sales of shares in US companies, some existing in little more than name, including Messidor Ltd, Max Talent Agency and Creative Telecom.

Lavishly printed publications attracted would-be investors. Their inquiries were handled, by telephone, by persuasive salesmen emphasizing the prospects of rapid gain.

The Swiss authorities acted after alarmed investors, one having parted with \$750,000, contacted Swiss embassies in Western Europe.

Although the arrests were made in mid-week, police instructed secretaries not to tell the salesmen, located mainly in Paris, Athens and Marbella, whose calls over the next two days were recorded for the investigators.

## House price boom 'to end next year'

By Our City Staff

The house price boom will end next year after peaking on increases of 25 to 30 per cent this year, but prices are unlikely to fall in real terms. The strongest influence in dampening prices will be the gradual slowing of real personal disposable incomes although rising mortgage rates will also play a part.

These are the conclusions of the *Lloyds Bank Economic Bulletin*, published today. It argues that the main cause of the rise has been the strong increase in real incomes.

The author, Mr Christopher Johnson, chief economic adviser at Lloyds, claims that the stock market crash was partly responsible for investors moving money into housing. However, he adds that the effect of rising house prices on pay has been modest.

Economic View, page 21

## STOCK WATCH

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- Stock market comment: general market 0898 121220; company news 0898 121221; active shares 0898 121225; USM 0898 121250.
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- Details, page 21.

★★★★★

# Drafting error curbs scope of insider probes

By Lawrence Lever

A drafting error in the Financial Services Act has restricted the scope of insider dealing investigations that can be carried out under the Act.

The error means that the DTI's tough new powers contained in the Act to combat insider dealing — by appointing outside inspectors with the right to question witnesses on oath — cannot be used where the share dealings took place before the second half of 1985.

This has proved a stumbling block to plans of the Stock Exchange and DTI to use the new powers to re-open old files on suspected insider dealing.

The insider dealing laws are in considerable confusion after a High Court decision in May this year in the case of Mr Brian Fisher, a businessman who was acquitted of insider dealing in the shares of Thomson T-Line.

The judgement in this case severely limited the scope of the offence by stipulating that

a person could only be guilty of insider dealing if he "obtained" unpublished price-sensitive information in the sense of actively seeking or procuring it. The Attorney General is to appeal against this interpretation in the Court of Appeal.

The drafting error which has emerged is contained in section 177 of the Financial Services Act, which lays down the scope of the new powers and the DTI's right to appoint inspectors for insider dealing.

Section 177 inadvertently limits the reach of these powers by failing to refer back to the Companies Act 1980, which originally made insider dealing a criminal offence.

The introductory wording of section 177 only refers to a situation where there is a possible contravention of the Companies Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985.

This is a later statute which consolidated the various statutory provisions relating to insider dealing and came into force in the second half of

1985. This means that share dealings which pre-date the 1985 Act cannot be brought within the scope of section 177. It would have been impossible for such dealings to contravene an Act of Parliament not then in force.

The only way around the inadvertent limitation occurs where the DTI suspects other breaches of the Companies Act as well as insider dealing.

It can then appoint inspectors to investigate these breaches and, if evidence of insider dealing is uncovered in the course of these inquiries, the DTI can empower the inspectors to extend their investigation to encompass insider dealing.

However, this method is no use in cases where only insider dealing is suspected.

The passage of the Financial Services Act through Parliament has been the subject of much complaint from MPs and the Law Lords who considered that the heavily-amended Act was being rushed through Parliament.

## Continental move for Alba with £1m buy

By Michael Tate

Alba, the hi-fi and colour television group, today unveils the first step in an assault on the continental markets with the acquisition of the French distributor, Telectrodis, for £1.1 million (£1.06 million).

Telectrodis, which will be known as Alba France, will provide a springboard for a European campaign before 1992, and Alba will be able to service the bigger French retailers in the same way as it does the British high street chains.

Mr John Harris, the chairman, rescued Alba from the receiver in 1982. In the 1980s it claimed to sell a third of the record players bought in Britain, but in the 1970s it was hit by the big Japanese consumer electronics groups.

It was guided back to profitability and on to the

market with a £45 million price in October. Black Monday followed, and the shares have not seen the 130p flotation price since.

Trading at Alba has not been affected however, and with the recent £6 million acquisition of another famous old name in radio and TV, Bush, the group can now claim

Together Alba and Bush claim almost 50 per cent of the colour TV market, and next month, when the group starts a 5,000-a-week production line, it will become the first British company in years to assemble colour TV sets in this country.

Alba, still 70 per cent controlled by Mr Harris and his family, expects profits of £4.7 million for the year just ended with only a few weeks contribution from Bush, and analysts have pencilled in up to £7.3 million for the present year, which would produce earnings per share of 14p, and a p/e ratio of 8.4 at the current price of 118p.



John Harris: back in profit

## Wolstenholme Rink starts its defence against Cookson

By Martin Waller

Wolstenholme Rink, the Lancashire maker of speciality chemicals, will this week start to draw up its defences against the unwanted £28 million approach from Cookson Group, the much larger industrial materials manufacturer.

Both sides are still at the "phoney war" stage, with Cookson's sighting shot, a five-for-three all-share package, offering a value at the end of last week 60p lower than Wolstenholme's 497p share price. There is a 410p cash alternative.

Mr Tony Rink, the joint managing director of the company, said he expects another offer and wants to keep most of his powder dry until then.

"When they come out with a

proper bid, we will have to look at it. At the moment we don't feel there are a lot of points we have to make."

Apart from the usual dividend and profits forecasts to be unveiled in due course, much of the company's campaign to keep its independence is likely to concentrate on the industrial logic, or lack of it, of the bid. It may also point to Cookson's heavy dependence on its joint titanium dioxide venture with ICI.

Mr Rink freely admits he has little experience in corporate struggles of this kind. The core of the company makes bronze-based powder. Ours is a small, highly-focused company. We don't feel that our businesses are suffering from not enough expansion because of a lack of cash."

In 1977 the company added Charles Openshaw, which makes products for the offset

printing industry and was the initial focus of Cookson's approach. An ill-fated venture into photostatic colouring led to a 1985 profits dip and it is just turning the corner.

Cookson is keen to merge Openshaw with its Horsell Graphics Industries subsidiary, while allowing the rest of the group access to its large cash resources for growth.

It points to earnings per share growth averaging 43 per cent over the past five years, against Rink's 19 per cent.

"The benefits would be washed out in the huge organization that Cookson is. Ours is a small, highly-focused company. We don't feel that our businesses are suffering from not enough expansion because of a lack of cash."

## Wall Street boutique has designs on London

## Small is beautiful with tons of money

By David Brewerton

"There's tons of money out there. It's just up to me to go and find it and I'm getting better at it." The message from Mr Steve Conway sounds pretty standard stuff for a Wall Street corporate finance man.

Wall Street boutiques are right in fashion. In the past week, two leading Japanese houses have sunk money into mergers and acquisition specialists. Yamaichi Securities invested \$100 million (£58 million) in Lodestar Partners, and Nomura put up a similar sum to buy 20 per cent of Wasserstein Perella.

But for Mr Conway, despite his ample proportions and passion for large imported Havanas, big is not beautiful. He prefers the corporate equivalent of the Schumacher philosophy.

He tasted life in the fast lane of a big corporation, when he was president of the share dealing business masterminded by Ivan Bosky. So far, in all the scandals which have emerged surrounding Bosky, none has touched Mr Conway, who had already quit before the insider

dealing suit was pressed. Now Mr Conway, from a midtown office on East 55th Street, New York, is keeping away from the corporate mega-deals and has found "room to operate in the soft underbelly" where fees are counted in hundreds of thousands rather than in millions.

"In the big Wall Street houses, \$10 million of revenue is required each year from each corporate finance manager," he explains.

"How many deals can one guy do in a year? Even 20 is a lot. That means revenue has to average \$500,000 a pop. They cannot even look at a deal which will only earn them \$200,000."

By contrast, Stephen J Conway and Partners carries an overhead for the entire firm of just \$1 million a year. "If I average \$250,000 a pop, I need only four deals before I start making money."

These are the attractions of the boutique corporate finance house. The boutiques do not need the vast tranches of own-account capital which weighs down the large investment banks. If the

deal is a good one, the boutiques find no trouble placing it with clients. And if the clients are happy after a couple of deals, the boutique has got them for life.

In the wake of the October 19 crash, business was slow for everyone on the street, but Mr Conway believes people are now back to "a normal mode."

The boutique corporate finance outfit need not, Mr Conway feels, be merely a New York phenomenon, and he is looking to establish a similar operation in London, where he has many business contacts already.

He is, for example, an investor in Oliffe & Partners, the post-Big Bang broker, but is now looking "for a group of local UK guys, not Americans," around whom to set up a business.

"I know the same conditions exist in the UK. There are tons of deals out there. It is my job to get in the middle."

And that is where the boutiques come in, with their connections to clients looking for propositions in which to invest. But the best investment of all could be in the boutiques themselves.



Family dynasty: Nazmu Virani, chairman of the expanding Control Securities, at his headquarters in Victoria, central London (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

## Virani is poised to expand his £300m business empire

By Cliff Feltham

Seventeen years after his family was expelled from Uganda, Mr Nazmu Virani has built up a British property and leisure empire worth more than £300 million.

His astuteness is likely to be in evidence again shortly, when his Control Securities vehicle announces another series of deals worth up to £70 million. He is strongly tipped to be on the brink of buying British Land's 26 per cent stake in the shoe retailing group, Stylo, as a prelude to reaching an agreed bid for the Bradford business.

Yet the City has been cool towards his company, reflecting in a poor rating for his shares. "Even if I go off and spend the next five years on a beach in the Bahamas, the growth in the business should see the company double in five years," he said.

But Mr Virani, aged 40, has no plans to sit on a beach. His family is immersed in the work ethic. "When we arrived from Uganda, we bought a

shop in Lordship Lane, East Dulwich, which I prefer to remember as Hardship Lane. We worked 18 hours a day, seven days a week."

With his father, he built up a chain of 19 supermarkets and a flourishing cash and carry business before branching out into hotels. That route took him into Belhaven, the brewery company, where he built up a 29 per cent stake.

He wanted to do some property deals, but his brokers advised finding a separate property shell. He looked around for a new vehicle — and stumbled on Control Securities.

He decided to concentrate on rebuilding Control — selling his Belhaven shares to Mr Ray Miquel, the former head of Bell's Whisky — reducing borrowings from £30 million to £12 million.

He specializes in picking up properties at the bottom end of the market. "I buy and sell the good rubbish," he said — feeding off the table of bigger players such as Mr Gerald

Ronson and Mountleigh's Mr Tony Clegg.

Mr Clegg, having sold him an £88 million parcel of offices, shops and houses last year, accepted part-payment in shares and now has a solid 16 per cent stake.

Mr Ronson joined Mr Virani in buying more than 200 public houses from Grand Metropolitan. Mr Virani is also looking closely at Buckley's Brewery.

Control Securities is beginning to look more like a fledgling Brent Walker, with a portfolio of 100 properties, worth between £100,000 and £10 million, and a fast-developing leisure side.

Last year, leisure chipped in £800,000 towards profits of £8.3 million. Mr Virani expects to see a 50-50 split with four years. Brokers looking for £15 million this year are unlikely to be disappointed.

He has a firm following among the Asian community. There are 17,000 shareholders with 23 pages of Mr Patel's

## Sterling becomes 'a one way bet'

 By Rodney Lord  
 Economics Editor

The pound is likely to remain well supported in foreign exchange markets this week putting additional strains on government policy.

The City expects interest rates to stay high in order to keep up the pressure on inflation, and perhaps to rise even further. This has turned sterling, for the moment, into a one-way bet.

The strength of sterling has forced the Bank of England to intervene in markets to hold the pound down and preserve at least a semblance of the exchange rate stability to which Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is committed. Tomorrow's figures on the change in official reserves during July will give some indication of the size of intervention recently.

Markets are expecting a rise of about \$400 million, but the authorities have some flexibility in the size of the increase they can show. Mr Stephen Hannah of County Natwest Gilts said: "I doubt if they will want to publish a very large figure because it would suggest the Bank had had to work very hard to hold the pound down and would tend to intensify the pressure."

Mr Lawson's warning in his end-of-tenor letter to government backbenchers last week that "inflation is now likely to edge up in the second half of the year and the first half of next year" has deepened gloom over the matter. As a result, traders expect high interest rates to stay.

Markets also expect rates overseas to remain firm or to rise. In testimony to Congress last week, Mr Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, said he was surprised at the strength of US inflation during the second quarter of the year and this has been taken by the markets to imply that the Fed might tighten monetary policy further. The West German Bundesbank raised its Lombard emergency funding rate from 4½ per cent to 5 per cent last week.

## BAT boost

BAT's drawn-out battle for control of the US insurance company, Farmers, received a boost when the Arizona Department of Insurance refused Farmers' request to rehear its favourable ruling for BAT. BAT faces a tangled series of legal actions in several American states, aimed at thwarting the takeover.

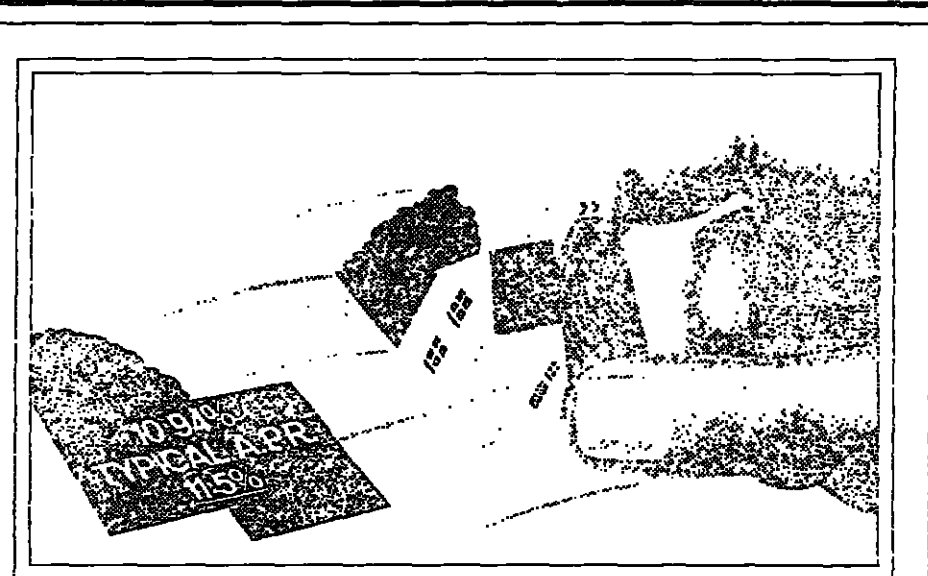
## DTI completes Fraser inquiry

The Department of Trade and Industry investigation into the takeover of the House of Fraser department store group has been completed.

The report was received by the DTI on July 23, and this has prompted widespread suggestions that all or part will be published in the next few weeks. A DTI spokesman refused to confirm this.

The inspectors, Mr Henry Brooke QC and Mr Hugh Aldous, an accountant, have investigated the takeover of House of Fraser by the Egyptian Fayad family in 1985.

House of Fraser, owner of Harrods, had been a target of Lornho, headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland.



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## TEMPUS

## TV levy barb finds its mark

The Government's technique, for tormenting the television companies appears to be not dissimilar to that practised by Spanish bullfighters. Just as picadors suck darts into each side of the bull's neck so that it does not know where the pain is coming from, so the Government assails the companies.

The latest dart is the proposed change to the exchequer levy, which will alter the basis of levy calculation in 1990 and, presumably not incidentally, increase the amount payable.

Analysts are inclined not to take initial projections of the impact of the changes too seriously. IBA figures show the effect on individual companies is so extreme and arbitrary — some companies paying more than twice what they pay now, others less than half — that analysts believe the proposals will be modified to some extent before being finalized.

Miss Bronwen Maddox, analyst at Kleinwort Greaveson, calculates that none of the big five TV companies is so badly affected that it cannot make up the difference by selling more programmes or cutting costs further.

She estimates that the two worst affected, Central TV and Thames TV, might see their market value reduced by 7 per cent and 5 per cent respectively on an after-tax, discounted basis. Grampian and TV-am will benefit by an estimated 8 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

But, perhaps more disturbing to analysts, viewers and the TV companies themselves is the likely effect of the change in the calculation basis on the quality of these companies' programmes.

The Government appears to take the view that the current levy on profits, after the costs of programme making, encourages waste. The companies argue that while this

may have been true in the past, costs have recently been cut significantly. However, the proposed system will be a levy on advertising revenues, before costs, effectively removing the incentive to make expensive programmes.

The market reaction was to leave the TV company shares virtually unchanged on the news. Analysts take the view that there are so many uncertainties overhanging these companies that even more bad news can do little to their ratings.

Much as the matador finishes the poor tormented bull, it only remains for the Government to put the TV companies out of their misery by taking their licences in 1992.

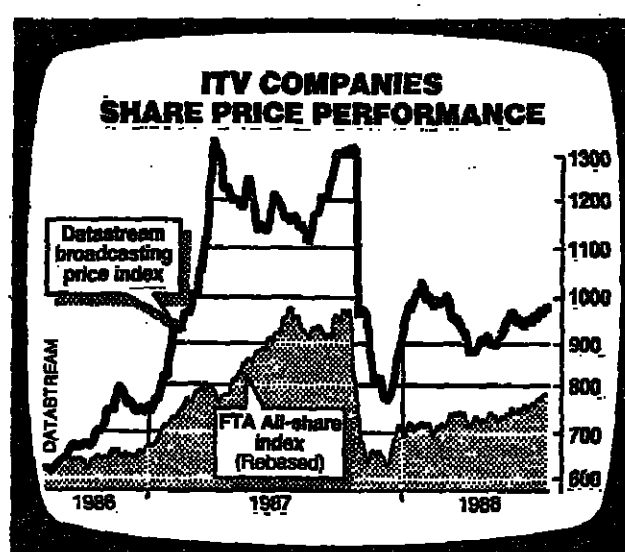
## Nestor-BNA

Take a creaking National Health Service, run by a parsimonious, free-enterprise government and serving an ageing and increasingly affluent population, and you have a potent combination, full of profitable opportunities. Never can there have been a better time to be a supplier of private health care.

Yet there are surprisingly few quoted companies which allow investors the chance to participate in this growth sector, and this is a feature which makes Nestor-BNA so attractive. Its main business, comprising three-quarters of its profits, is basically that of an employment agency for nurses, BNA — the British Nursing Association.

Supplying 20,000 hours of nursing care, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, BNA is far the biggest nursing agency in the country with a market share of 12.5 per cent in the NHS and 40 per cent of private patients in their homes.

Growth in BNA depends on the rate of growth in nurses' pay and increasing the number of nurses on its books. Neither of these items has



been going Nestor's way of late. The main nurses' pay award will not be made until November, when the new grading is complete. Meanwhile, nurses have been loath to leave the NHS because their increases, ranging from 8 per cent to 25 per cent, will be backdated to April.

The benefit of the pay award is therefore likely to be felt next year. However, Nestor has ambitions to grow by acquisition, especially if it can use its paper. It has been picking up additional nursing agencies and will continue to do so as a matter of course. But these are usually small single-branch businesses bought for cash.

Nestor is on the lookout to buy a hospital to add to its four nursing homes. It already runs hospitals for fees, giving it the expertise to run its own. It is also looking at providing additional services to industrial customers in the field of occupational health. So it is looking outside its traditional area for new ideas.

However, key opportunities for expansion also exist outside the health care sector. For as well as being the biggest nursing agency, BNA is also the fifth largest employment agency in the country, and

Nestor is likely to look at other specialist employment agencies such as physiotherapists and radiologists, or even engineers, draughtsmen and accountants.

Nestor should make £3.7 million for the full year this year, after reporting £1.6 million at the half-year stage. The prospective multiple of 15.6 reflects its unique position in a fast-growing sector.

## Gold shares

Sceptics of gold and gold shares will have a field day pointing fingers at Bond International Gold (BIG), the newly-fledged gold company controlled by Mr Alan Bond and family interests, which had hoped to start life at an issue price of between \$75 and \$85 but was finally offered at \$63. The issue consisted of five ordinary shares plus one warrant.

The share price started in the market at an effective 1.175 cents and ended its first trading day at 1.150 cents. The warrants eased from \$4.25 to about \$4.

The issue, which gives investors a stake in gold assets in Chile and Australia, was

undone first by the wavering conditions in the international gold market, and second by investment concern about Mr Bond's reputation.

It was also seen to be expensive on an initial target price/earnings ratio of 38, which eased to 31 on the revised flotation price, but which falls to a more respectable 13.8 on 1989-90 profit projections.

But now that the issue has been born, there is a case for keeping an eye out for buying opportunities, because there is nothing quite like a \$10 rise in the gold price to send the bulls on the stampede.

Gold shares, in reflection of the gold price, have not proved startling performers of late but that owes much to technical rather than fundamental factors, the most important of which is the perceived overhang in the supply-demand equation.

Gold loans, whereby emerging producers "borrow" gold from banks at low interest and then sell it on world markets to fund their development, are ensuring there is no shortage of supply to the market.

But the clouds of inflation are fast gathering on the horizon, the US November presidential election looms — where a Democratic win would send gold prices running for the metal — and once the gold loan factor has run its course, the world price should stage a stronger performance.

Assuming healthier markets, BP Gold should be born in the autumn.

Meanwhile, investors itching for some representation in the gold stakes, should look at Homestake, Echo Bay, Newmont Gold, American Barrick and, as a top favourite, Consolidated Gold Fields.

Even BIG may yet turn out to be beautiful.

## GILT-EDGED

## Current account tactics hold key to the future

After another huge current account deficit, sterling soared and the Bank of England felt obliged to intervene to slow the rise: not quite the economics of the madhouse, but hardly the stuff of the textbooks either.

While the Government is at pains to insist that sterling is not, and will not be allowed to become, a one-way bet, the canny players in the foreign exchange markets feel the risk involved in holding sterling is very limited. Interest rates, ratcheted back up to 10.5 per cent in response to escalating inflation risk, are not going to be cut even if sterling keeps appreciating. Furthermore, the greater the domestic pressures that develop — the stronger the level of demand, the faster the growth of the monetary aggregates — the more likely it is that base rates will be jacked up again.

The official view would appear to be that enough has been done by way of monetary tightening, especially with the rise in mortgage rates. If there is a risk, however, it is that the tightening will not do enough to cool the economy but that, instead, domestic demand will remain strong.

Over the remainder of the summer a "wait and see" attitude will prevail, but in the early autumn everybody will be minutely scrutinizing the economic data for signs of slowdown. And if these are not forthcoming in sufficient measure, inflation and balance of payments concerns threaten not merely to persist, but to intensify. In these circumstances, the Chancellor may feel compelled to raise interest rates further. Accordingly, a further monetary tightening may be just over the horizon.

Given this interest rate outlook, with domestic objectives now predominating, the

currency promises to remain well bid, despite a current account deficit of frightening proportions. A worsening current account and higher currency are not naturally compatible. However, what would still be considered the normal relationship between the external deficit and the currency may well not apply for long periods in a world where capital flows dwarf genuine trade flows. Nevertheless, in anything other than the very near term, sterling appreciation can only worsen the current account outlook.

If the Government is not going to let the currency depreciate for anti-inflation reasons, how will the yawning current account deficit be cut? The manner in which this problem is solved will be the key influence upon gilts over the next couple of years. The Government hopes that by keeping in place a relatively high exchange rate, wage settlements will be forced down. However, this policy is a triumph of hope over experience, given the extreme rigidity in pay settlements over the past five years.

If the level of wage settlements does not drop, and if sterling is not going to be allowed to fall, all that is left to correct the external trade imbalance is a relative decline — relative, that is, to the world average — in economic growth and, in particular, the rate of growth of domestic demand. Or, to put it another way, what is required is a rise in domestic savings relative to investment demand. This is what the policy of a strong exchange rate and higher base rates is designed to achieve.

If this happens and the external deficit is contained by a slowdown in domestic growth rather than any appreciable fall in the pound, then

the clear implication is that the downward slope of the yield curve is here to stay.

It could become more pronounced in two ways — by short yields going higher, and by long yields falling. Short-dated yields are no longer discounting higher base rates, yet it is highly probable that base rates will have to rise in the autumn.

As for lower long-dated yields, these will only be on the cards when there is evidence that the pace of domestic demand growth has slowed — seeing will be believing.

There is an important subsidiary argument that supports the notion that the downward slope of the yield curve will steepen further. The only significant stock supply the gilt-edged market might see over the next couple of years will be the auctions every six months or so. The bias will be to keep these short rather than long. Details of the August auction, which will be of a short-dated stock, will be announced tomorrow and "when-issued" trading will begin then.

The shortage of stock at the longer end is unlikely to be alleviated by the Bank. The moral of the past few months is that lack of supply does not do anything for prices if there is not much demand either, and rising anxiety about the inflation outlook has held demand in check. However, when the inflation outlook does change for the better, the impact upon the long end of the market will be dramatic.

Ian Harwood and John Sheppard  
Warburg Securities

## Government seeks to free commodity trade

By Colin Narbrough

The Government has made clear that it is fundamentally opposed to international commodity pacts and will try with its European partners to free world markets from such constraints.

In a House of Commons written answer, Mr Alan Clark, the Trade Minister, said commodity pacts which operate buffer stocks or quotas were at best of doubtful benefit to producers and consumers, and at worst distorted markets, carrying the risk of "disastrous failure."

Meanwhile, Signor Lorenzo Natali, vice-president of the European Commission, said the commodity world was sick, food agreements were in crisis, and production and consumption out of balance. Figures showed the slump in world coffee and cocoa prices last year overstretched the EEC's compensation scheme.

## Dollar at core of deflation fear

From Maxwell Newton New York

As global short-term interest rates rise and commodity prices fall sharply, the question is bound to be asked: "Is the world being set up for deflation?"

At the core of the problem is the resurgence of the dollar, a reaction from its excessive devaluation that drove it to a nadir at the end of 1987. Now that the dollar is seen to have been seriously over-devalued, a huge flow of money is being directed to the US.

On Friday, the central banks were simply pushed aside as they failed to stem the rise in the dollar which closed at ¥133.2 and DM1.879.

The rise of the dollar and

global short-term interest rates has produced a collapse in commodity prices. The US Commodity Research Bureau index of commodity futures prices, which rose from a peak of 240 in January to a higher peak of 270 in late June, has now fallen again to 245.

Most "consensus" thoughts in the US still appear to be focusing on imminent accelerating inflation. But the commodity markets are telling us that the commodity price boomlet is over.

To my way of thinking, all these are early warnings that the global industrial expansion is getting rather tired.

The national income figures released last week showed a far more dynamic improvement in the US balance on

goods and services than has been previously reported.

GNP revisions have produced a dynamic improvement in real net exports. Between the fourth quarter of 1987 and the second quarter of 1988, real net exports fell by 29 per cent.

The revised figures issued last week show that the peak of real net exports occurred in the third quarter of 1986 when the annual rate was \$152 billion (\$89 billion). Between that peak and the second quarter of 1988, negative net exports have thus fallen by 40 per cent.

As short-term interest rates rise, the yield curve has continued to flatten. In the past three months the 90-day T-bill rate has risen by 100

basis points and the 30-year bond yield by 17 basis points and this may explain bond market lethargy. Last Tuesday's two-year note option had an 8.41 per cent yield against June's 8.05 per cent.

Short-term credit demand in the US is very strong. In the four weeks ended June 29, commercial and industrial loans rose by 15.1 per cent a year from the four weeks ended March 31. This surge in loan demand has coincided with the sharp rise in the ratio of the 90-day T-bill rate to the 30-year bond yield.

Eventually the short-term rates rise will climax, killing expansion, and the yield curve will fall. This is the medium-term case for taking current high fixed income yields.

## Reflections on capitalism and privatization

Popular Capitalism  
John Redwood; Routledge, £25  
Privatising the World  
Oliver Letwin; Cassell, £19.95

It is easy to forget that the Government stumbled on privatization almost by accident. Relatively little was achieved during Mrs Thatcher's first term. It was only with the sale of British Telecom that the magnitude of what was happening began to dawn.

As the programme developed, the motivation for it changed. At first, the Treasury kept a heavy hand on events because asset sales (as they were then known) were a relatively painless way of raising money and keeping down taxation and borrowing. They could even be used to keep down public spending since under Britain's curious accounting conventions asset sales were counted as negative expenditure.

Today, with the prospect of a budget surplus of at least £6 billion, the need to raise money is less pressing. Much more important are the twin aims of improving the efficiency of British industry and spreading share ownership more widely.

Two of the most interesting books on the subject are those by John Redwood and Oliver Letwin, both members of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit during the last Parliament and both working at various times for NM Rothschild.

Mr Redwood's book covers the development over the past decade of what we understand by privatization and the liberalizing of markets by removing controls, the influence of the debt crisis in forcing a review of economic policies in the Third World, and the significance of markets as an expression of the popular will.

## BUSINESS BOOKS

Mr Redwood is often most interesting when he is being most specific. His description of how Jamaica went about privatizing the National Commercial Bank — a process in which he was deeply involved — stands out as a model for aspiring privatizers in developing countries.

Mr Letwin's book, as the title suggests, sticks more closely to privatization — its growing popularity around the world, techniques involved and arguments used.

Particularly interesting is his summary of the political debate so far. For all its success, privatization has not exactly had an easy ride; from Lord Stockton's remark about selling the family silver through criticism of underpricing, strategic arguments and threat to jobs to the present concern with regulation, privatization's opponents have been firing all barrels. Mr Letwin rightly picks out the argument that privatization has been accompanied by too small an increase in competition as having the most substance. This will prove a useful work of reference.

Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor

## NEW HIGHER RATES FOR C&amp;G INVESTORS Effective from 1st August 1988

	Interest Paid	Net%	Compounded Annual Rate%	Gross Equivalent CAR%
<b>Cheltenham 4 Year Term Share</b>				
£5,000 or more	Annually	8.75	8.75	11.67
	Monthly	8.41	8.75	11.67
<b>Cheltenham 2 Year Term Share</b>				
£2,000 or more	Annually	8.50	8.50	11.33
£5,000 or more	Monthly	8.18	8.50	11.33
<b>Cheltenham Gold Account</b>				
£25,000 or more	Annually	7.75	7.75	10.33
£5,000-£24,999	Annually	7.50	7.50	10.00
£1,000-£4,999	Annually	6.75	6.75	9.00
Under £1,000	Annually	4.75	4.75	6.33
<b>Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest Account and Capital Growth High Interest Account</b>				
£25,000 or more	Monthly	7.48	7.75	10.33
£5,000-£24,999	Monthly	7.25	7.50	10.00
<b>Cheltenham Premier Monthly Income Account</b>				
£10,000 or more	Monthly	7.65	7.92	10.56
<b>Cheltenham Gold International Account</b>				
£5,000 or more	Annually		10.25% Gross	
		Interest paid	Net%	Gross Equivalent%
Savings Builder	Half Yearly	5.75	5.75	7.67
Junior Account	Half Yearly	4.75	4.75	6.33
Ordinary (Investment) Share	Half Yearly	4.75	4.75	6.33
Deposit Account	Annually	4.50	4.50	6.00

The rate of interest paid on all other existing accounts on which composite rate tax is paid by the Society will be increased by 1.25% from 1st August 1988. Limited company and other deposits subject to basic rate tax will be increased by 1.25%.

Rates may vary. Maximum investment £250,000.  
\*When interest added to account. †Gross equivalent at basic rate of 25%.

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## ISSUES OF GOVERNMENT STOCK

The Bank of England announces that Her Majesty's Treasury has created on 29th July 1988, and has issued to the public, additional amounts as indicated of each of the following Stocks:

£100 million 2 per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 2006  
£100 million 2 1/2 per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 2016

The price paid by the Bank on issue was in each case the middle market price of the relevant Stock at 3.30 p.m. on 29th July 1988 as certified by the Government Broker.

In each case, the amount issued on 29th July 1988 represents a further tranche of the relevant Stock and is subject to the terms and conditions applicable to that Stock, and subject also to the provision contained in the final paragraph of this notice: the current provisions for Capital Gains Tax are described below.

Application has been made to the Council of The International Stock Exchange for each further tranche of stock to be admitted to the Official List.

Copies of the prospectuses for 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 dated 3rd July 1988 and 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 dated 14th January 1988 may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, New Change, London, EC4M 9AA. The Stocks are repayable, and interest is payable half-yearly on the dates shown below (provision is made in the prospectuses for stockholders to be offered the right of early redemption under certain circumstances):

Stock	Redemption date	Interest payment dates
2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006	19th July 2006	15th January 1989 15th July 1989
2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016	26th July 2016	26th January 1989 26th July 1989

Both the principal of and the interest on 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 and 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 are indexed to the General Index of Retail Prices. The Index figure relevant to any month is that published seven months previously and relating to the month before the month of publication. The Index figure relevant to the month of issue of 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 is that relating to November 1980 (274.1); the equivalent Index figure for 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 is that relating to May 1982 (322.0). These Index figures will be used for the purposes of calculating payments of principal and interest due in respect of the relevant further tranches of stock, as provided for in the prospectuses, the calculations will take account of the revision of the index to a new base of January 1987 = 100 (on the old base the Index for January 1987 was 394.5).

The relevant Index figures for the half-yearly interest payments on 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 and 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 are as follows:

Interest payable	Published	Relevant Index figure	Relating to
January	June of the previous year	May	November
July	December of the previous year	May	November

The further tranches of 2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 and 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 will rank for a full six months' interest on the next interest payment date applicable to the relevant stock.

2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2006 and 2 1/2 per cent Index-Linked Treasury Stock, 2016 are exempt from tax on capital gains, irrespective of the period for which the Stock is held.

Government statement  
Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 29th May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the conditions under which, these further tranches of stock are issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank, that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND  
LONDON  
29th July 1988

## New rates for Business Overdrafts.

With effect from 1 August 1988, the monthly rates of interest applicable to Business Overdrafts are as follows:

Previous Rate	New Rate	Typical A.P.R.
1.0%	1.1%	14.0%
1.1%	1.2%	15.3%
1.2%	1.3%	16.7%
1.3%	1.4%	18.1%

**Lloyds Bank**

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## PREMIER BUDGET ACCOUNTS INTEREST RATE CHANGE

THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON THE OUTSTANDING BALANCES ON PREMIER BUDGET ACCOUNTS WHERE PAYMENT IS BY A BANK WILL BE 2.2% PER MONTH (EQUIVALENT TO 29.8% APR). FOR ACCOUNTS WHERE PAYMENT IS BY OTHER METHODS, THE INTEREST RATE WILL BE 2.5% PER MONTH (EQUIVALENT TO 34.4% APR). THE INTEREST PAID ON A CREDIT BALANCE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. THE VARIATION WILL BE REFLECTED IN STATEMENTS PRODUCED ON OR AFTER 8TH AUGUST 1988.

THIS NOTIFICATION IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CLAUSE 6 OF THE CONDITIONS OF USE FOR PREMIER BUDGET ACCOUNTS.

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# Analysts look for safe £11m from Securicor at half time

TODAY

**Interims:** The Commercial Bank of the Near East, Isle of Man Enterprises.  
**Finals:** Ashted Group, DSC Holdings, Mainmet Holdings, J Saville Gordon Group, Waverley Cameron.

TOMORROW

**Securicor Group** and its 51 per cent-owned offshoot, Securicor Services, report figures for the six months to end-March, at a time when the two companies are moving from their traditional areas of cash and parcels-carrying into the growing cellular telephone market.

They hold a combined 40 per cent stake in the Cellnet mobile radio joint venture with British Telecom. They have told the market to expect some contribution from Cellnet within the current financial year.

James Capel, the broker, is going for half-way profits from Securicor of £11 million, up from £8.98 million, and £9 million from Securicor Services, against £7.36 million.

Unitex, the electronic components supplier which recently announced a tie-up with Elektrowatt, the much larger Swiss electrical utilities and engineering contractor, reports annual results.

Unitex's interim results showed a slowdown in the company's growth rate and Mr Peter Curry, the chairman, revealed that the second-half performance was unlikely to better than that.

Analysts therefore forecast only a modest rise in pre-tax profits for the year to end-May to between £14 million and £14.5 million against last year's £13.6 million.

The biggest reasons for the slowdown were lower orders at Rapid Recall, the group's British 'systems' distribution business, hit by the emergence of a 'grey market' in DEC systems, and a sharp downturn at Radindova, the telephone manufacturer, which was hit by BT de-stocking.

Apart from that, growth in its power supply business in the US and France was better than expected, while its industrial control division is tipped to produce a record year, helped by dollar weakness.

Yorkshire Chemicals reports interim figures, and Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the



Lord King: losses from B-Cal to hit results

Garth Davies: more than £31m expected

broker, is expecting a 27 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.3 million.

The company is expected to reveal strong demand for products in the colours business, notably in the Far East, with between a 2 and 3 per cent increase in prices, mainly in European territories.

Yorkshire's Australian operation has shown good growth and the acquisition of Douglas has helped a great deal, and sterling profits should be well ahead.

**Interims:** Consolidated Co Bultfontein, Grigoland West Diamond Mining Company, Lawson Mardon Group, Molynx Holdings, Murray International Trust, Pacer Systems, Security Services, Securicor Group, Yorkshire Chemicals. **Finals:** Benjamin Priest Group, Unitex.

WEDNESDAY

**CAP Group**, the British software house, was seldom out of the news a few months ago as the unrelated French group, Cap Gemini Sogeti, built an unwelcome 29.9 per cent stake.

This was diluted to about 13.5 per cent on last month's merger with another French rival, Sema-Metra, CGS was allowed to buy again once the merger went through but there have been no signs of this.

Meanwhile, Volcan, another large European software house, has a friendly near-5 per cent holding in the merged group. CGS has pledged not to bid for the 'foreseeable future', and few market-watchers see this as a real possibility in the medium term.

The market is looking for £8

million and more pre-tax for the year to end-April from CAP, against £5.83 million last time.

Dale Electric International, maker of diesel-engined and battery-based generating sets for mains supply, which fought off a bid from Sunlight last year, reports annual results on Wednesday.

Analysts are looking for pre-tax profits of between £2.4 million and £2.8 million, against £1.1 million last year.

The group's profits have collapsed in the past few years, due to the drop in oil prices

and because sales were heavily dependent on Opec and developing countries.

Fortunes have revived with the growth of sales to Western Europe and other developed markets, based on a move towards more sophisticated generating sets, and the second-half profits performance is expected to be much stronger than the first.

US sales are growing and the company continues to diversify into other areas of engineering. In February, it bought Ward & Scott, a manufacturer of switch gear and control gear for £300,000.

The many City fans of Mr

Garth Davies, the driving force behind the boom at once-unfashionable Glywedd International, should relish another good set of figures from this Birmingham metal and plastic products group.

Last month it agreed a £98 million offer for Amari, another steel and plastics company, after striking a deal with Mr David Abell's Suter. At the time it insisted there would be no earnings dilution and it would stick to its long-established target of 20 per cent annual earnings per share growth.

BZW expects £31.5 million for the six months to April 30, while its rival James Capel is going for another £1 million extra. Last time Glywedd made £25.6 million.

**Interims:** CAP Group, Dale Electric International, Lawrie Group, Radiant Metal Finishing.

THURSDAY

First quarterly figures from British Airways will show a drop in pre-tax profits from £90 million last time to £67 million, reflecting losses at British Caledonian, bought after a long struggle at the end of last year, forecasts County NatWest, the broker.

But interest is more likely to focus on remarks by Lord King, the chairman, on trading. The lower profits are largely academic and reflected in the share price after two months' bad traffic figures in April and May, which could have cut B-Cal's passenger volume by as much as 20 per cent.

With the integration reck-

oned to have gone smoothly, any comments on the all-important month of July will be scanned more closely than usual for signs of recovery at the new subsidiary.

Shares of Hickson International, the chemicals and building protection group, have risen more than 30 per cent in the past month on intense takeover speculation after Allied Commercial Exporters Limited, a private company, bought an 8 per cent stake.

Shareholders will therefore be hoping the company can report an impressive set of interim figures on Thursday to keep the momentum going. Analysts' pre-tax profits forecasts range between £11 million and £11.5 million, against £8.72 million last time.

Miss Jinty Price, an analyst at BZW, has pencilled in an interim figure of £11.2 million and says the company has experienced a good first half.

Hickson this month announced the £24 million cash buy of Kerley Enterprises, an Arizona manufacturer of sulphur-based agricultural and mining chemicals, which almost doubles the group's US sales. Kerley is expected to make a significant contribution to earnings in 1989.

With acquisitions and disposals totalling almost £1 billion over the past two years, interim figures from the reshaped TI Group will hardly compare like with like.

The market is looking for pre-tax profits of £36 million to £37 million in the half year to June 31, up from £25.1 million last time, after signs that the group's decision to concentrate on speciality engineering is paying off.

**Interims:** BPP Holdings, British Airways (1st qtr), Heywood Williams Group, Hickson International, TI Group. **Finals:** Coated Electrodes International, T Cowie, Cowan, de Groot, Finlan Group, The Law Debenture Corporation, Mid Wynd International Investment Trust, Peel Holdings, YRM.

FRIDAY

**Interims:** Edinburgh Oil & Gas, Investment Trust of Guernsey. **Finals:** Pavion International.

**Martin Waller and Geoffrey Foster**

## ECONOMIC VIEW

## A touch of sobriety in the housing market

Today is Black Monday in the housing market. Mortgage rates go up, and the Budget decision to end the tax advantage enjoyed by sharers takes effect. Together, Nigel Lawson is hoping that these two events will deliver a sufficient shock to would-be home-buyers to put a ball and chain on the rise in house prices and reduce inflationary pressures throughout the economy.

Whether, and how quickly, he will be proved right is still very much an open question. Buyers accustomed to seeing the capital value of their *des res* rising by up to 25 per cent a year may take a good deal of persuading that 1½ per cent on mortgage rates should make them change their minds. The balance of opinion in the City is still that further rises in interest rates will be necessary before inflationary expectations can be punctured.

However, the rise in mortgage rates could have a greater effect than on previous occasions. And the double impact of dearer money and the end of the rush to beat the deadline on double tax relief for sharers may be mutually reinforcing. Evelyn Brodie and Joanne Curley of Morgan Grenfell, who have analysed the effect of the increase in rates in the present economic circumstances, believe that dearer money will act both on the demand for housing finance and on the supply of it. They think the present level of rates will prove high enough.

The effect of high rates will be increased by the high gearing borrowers have already accepted. Normally higher interest rates make the personal sector as a whole feel richer because there are more savers receiving higher interest on their assets than there are borrowers paying more on their liabilities. But last year the personal sector became a net debtor of floating rate financial assets. Higher rates therefore now have a clear deterrent effect.

In the housing sector people are borrowing more both in relation to their income and to the price of the house. The loans-to-income ratio has risen from a low point of about 1.6 in 1980 right back up to the peak levels of 1973, about 2.1. And one in eight of new loans to previous home owners now covers 95-100 per cent of the price of the house, compared with only one in 30 five years ago.

This leaves both the borrower and the lender more exposed. With bigger loans outstanding, borrowers will feel the cost of higher rates more keenly in relation to their income, and lenders will be more nervous about the possibility of defaults. Although the level of repossessions has been very low, it is rising and some societies are said to be starting to rein back on the amounts they are prepared to lend. One should

probably be sceptical about the degree to which prudent considerations will weigh with the banks and the building societies in the new competitive climate while funds are continuing to flood in, but any significant increase in borrowers in difficulties could see this factor becoming more important.

The effect of any slowdown in prices is likely to be greatest among low-income first-time buyers who have benefited least from the Budget tax cuts. A first-time buyer on £10,000 with a £35,000 mortgage could find the rise in rates costing him the equivalent of 5½-6 per cent of his gross income, even after the offsetting tax cuts of the Budget. Unlike in the 1970s, borrowers will not be bailed out very quickly by inflation reducing the real burden of their loans.

But at the top end of the market not only have tax cuts more than offset the cost of the rise in mortgage rates for many people, but looking further ahead, the switch from local rates to poll tax will further benefit owners of large houses with a high rateable value.

Effects of a less fevered housing market will spread through other parts of the economy, partly because of the extent to which the consumer boom has effectively been financed by mortgage lending. When people move house they have often borrowed to finance much of the new purchase while using part of the proceeds of the old for consumer spending. This 'equity withdrawal' is estimated to be running at £12 billion to £15 billion a year.

Morgan Grenfell thinks house price inflation could have fallen back to the general level of retail price inflation of 4 per cent within 12-18 months. Certainly if recent estimates are correct, that up to 40 per cent of mortgage applicants during the past few weeks have been sharers rushing to beat today's deadline, then one would expect to see quite a rapid fall in the demand for mortgage finance from now on.

The speed at which the effects of higher rates begin to be felt is important not least for decisions on next year's Budget. Mr Lawson will want to have the level of demand in the economy more clearly under control by the new year if further tax cuts are to be delivered with safety. Lower house price inflation will also tend to reduce the disparities between regions which have inhibited people from moving to new jobs.

For the party of home ownership squeezing the home buyer is a politically delicate operation. There should be some straws in the wind as to whether the rise in rates has been enough by the time of the Conservative Party conference in October.

**Rodney Lord**  
Economics Editor

## Rise in workload for consultancies

Britain's management consultants have reported an increased workload, reflecting continued medium-term business optimism.

The Management Consultancies Association half-year survey of business trends indicates that 60 per cent of consultants have seen an increase of more than 10 per cent in their workload, compared with six months ago.

A year ago, at the same point, the figure stood at 55 per cent.

The association also suggests that its members' earnings from fees this year could exceed £350 million, compared to £295 million in 1987 - which was itself a 29 per cent increase on the previous year.

The association adds that it expects the fee income to come from the private sector,

for, despite the Department of Trade and Industry enterprise initiative, consultants have not been increasing their work from the public sector by as much as in the previous year.

Mr Brian O'Rourke, executive director of the association, says that manufacturing management and technology and personnel management and training are two areas where companies are continuing to take long-term and fundamental views of the development of their business.

He added that this long-term approach is also reflected in the increased work in marketing sales and distribution.

And, he says, that trend itself highlights the demand for consultants to assist companies in preparing for the single market in 1992.

## CBI plans 'guide' to urban renewal

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

A co-ordinated drive by the business community to maximise its contribution to urban renewal will be unveiled by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) in the autumn.

The CBI's urban regeneration task force under its chairman, Mr Tom Frost, who is group chief executive of the National Westminster Bank, will bring out a report on September 22 which will be "a practical guide to business action," said Mr John Banham, the CBI director general.

Mr Banham said: "It will provide an imaginative, practical agenda for action by the business community that can make a major difference to the future of rundown urban areas. There is no single simple solution but there are lessons to be learned from successful

partnerships in urban renewal on both sides of the Atlantic."

He underlined the value of the task force in being able to



Frost: heads task force take an overall view and added: "Unless there is greater co-operation and co-ordination the total impact of individual business initiatives will be less than it could and should be."

## New drive for heat and power plants

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

A new group, to encourage industrial companies to install their own combined heat and power plant once the electricity industry has been privatised, has been formed by the Combined Heat and Power Association.

The group is seeking to ensure that the recent increase in interest among industry for CHP schemes is turned into a reality.

It will work to press the Government to ensure that there is a quick introduction of equitable rating assessments for CHP plant, that adequate emission standards are developed, that cost-effective tariffs for the re-sale of electricity are negotiated, and that fuel price contracts are negotiated.

The new group is to be chaired by Mr Bill Houston, managing director of BP Energy.

Mr David Green, the CHPA director, said: "We need to ensure that CHP developers get a fair deal in the post-privatisation electricity market."

"Industry can get the benefits of on-site production of heat and power, with the scope for income-generating electricity sales."

"No longer need industry fear rising energy prices - rather they can control them themselves. Our new forum will be working to make sure such opportunities are created."

## Call to prepare for a common EEC currency

Dr James McFarlane, the director general of the Engineering Employers Federation, has said manufacturers must work towards operating both a common currency and interest rates if the single European market is to be a success.

Dr McFarlane said the EEF welcomed 1992 but urged caution when it came to drafting legislation on labour and social aspects of the single market.

He noted that the community's Economic and Social Committee had proposed a directive setting out rights for individual workers, and there were moves to reactivate the concept of the European company and worker participation in management.

**Carol Leonard**

## The heart of the matter

Company chairmen must at times ponder what their smaller shareholders do with the often tiny dividend cheques they are sent twice a year, but few can have had their inquisitiveness satisfied in such a rewarding way as John Redwood, chairman of Norcoros and the urban MP for Wokingham. At the company's annual meeting in London, one small shareholder rose to his feet and proudly offered the board and any other interested shareholder the services of his son, a heart surgeon who had, he said, just moved into a Harley Street surgery. The shareholder claimed it was his Norcoros dividends which had paid for his son to go through medical school. Redwood, aged 37, thanked the said shareholder but said he hoped that neither he nor his boardroom colleagues were in need of cardiac treatment just yet. The father was rightly proud but methinks the son could be feeling embarrassed.

## Bashing on

Revelations in this column on Friday of management discord within the PR group Broad Street seem to have touched a few raw nerves. Speaking from sunny California, where he is on holiday, MD Brian Basham told me: "It is rubbish to suggest that I'm resigning. Far from having any thoughts of resignation, I have again taken a hard grip on the core business." Group development director Michael

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Share my shop, please

Labour's recent party political broadcast on television fired a broadside at the City, railing against the parasitical yuppies who inhabit the Square Mile. To illustrate the point, it showed pictures of these appalling creatures sipping champagne in one of the City's dens of iniquity. One of those anonymous individuals daring to enjoy the fruits of their labour - who were highlighted

Preston, my first caller that morning, protested that Basham had, indeed, taken up 125,000 of the shares issued even though details of their purchase were absent from the official release. "I didn't have power of attorney to act for

by the camera as an example of typical City yuppies - was, however, Matthew Orr, the bearded director of sales and trading at Debenhams Financial Services, which operates the chain of share shops. Orr is, I am told, delighted with the free publicity and hopes that Labour might in future be persuaded to film in the share shops themselves. Dare the party accept the invitation?

Brian on this so I have taken up 250,000 and he will be buying half of them from me," Preston explains. The result is that Basham's stake is diluted from 31 per cent to 26 per cent, with chairman James Gulliver now holding 11 and Preston 10 per cent.

## Rotten apple

Cadbury Schweppes must be smiling at the jump in General Cinema shares - up almost \$2.50 to \$23.25 last week after the Dow Jones news service picked up on an SEC filing purporting to claim that a London investor had bought 6.1 per cent of GC's shares. But, as was suggested at the time, the filing, although on SEC forms, was a hoax. No one knows if the mysterious Kile Johnson exists, but his address, 15 Apple Street, London, certainly does not. GC is asking the SEC and New York Stock Exchange to investigate. But Mr Johnson's profits will no doubt be safely in the bank.

## Up in smoke

Private shareholders at Rothmans' annual meeting on Friday who hoped to block the £750,000 golden handshake to retiring executive chairman Sir Robert Crichton-Brown, were to be further disappointed. Rothmans' gatherings are normally cosy affairs and the faithful look forward to salmon sandwiches and choice wines after the meeting. Alas, it seems that handshake has to be paid for somehow and this year the salmon was missing. The hungry hoards had to make do with chicken, cheese or egg sandwiches instead.

**Carol Leonard**

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No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Harrison Ind	Building/Roads	17.00
2	Ladbrokes (ns)	Hotel/Casino	17.00
3	Vickers	Industrial S-Z	17.00
4	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals/Pet	17.00
5	Telecom	Telecom	17.00
6	GKN (ns)	Industrial E-K	17.00
7	RPI Ind (ns)	Building/Roads	17.00
8	Lawes	Industrial L-R	17.00
9	VSEL	Industrial S-Z	17.00
10	Avdel	Industrial A-D	17.00
11	Prosser	Electrical	17.00
12	Ferranti Ind (ns)	Electrical	17.00
13	Pharmacia	Pharmaceutical	17.00
14	Finlayson	Building/Roads	17.00
15	Reckitt Coleman (ns)	Industrial L-R	17.00
16	Parer Knoll 'A'	Industrial L-R	17.00
17	Higgs & Hill	Building/Roads	17.00
18	Sutcliffe Spectram	Chemicals/Pet	17.00
19	Blackwood Hodge	Industrial A-D	17.00
20	Macarty	Industrial L-R	17.00
21	Holmes	Industrial E-K	17.00
22	First Nat Finance	Bank/Finance	17.00
23	Howden	Industrial E-K	17.00
24	Cook (West)	Industrial A-D	17.00
25	Watts Hale	Building/Roads	17.00
26	Clifford Davies	Pharmaceutical	17.00
27	Thames Dev	Industrial S-Z	17.00
28	Liberty	Industrial A-D	17.00
29	BOC (ns)	Industrial A-D	17.00
30	Rockniss	Building/Roads	17.00
31	By Airways (ns)	Industrial A-D	17.00
32	Robinson (Thames)	Industrial L-R	17.00
33	Electronic Mech	Electrical	17.00
34	Lun Ind	Industrial L-R	17.00
35	Auto Soc	Industrial E-K	17.00
36	Medi Box (ns)	Industrial L-R	17.00
37	Church	Industrial L-R	17.00
38	Noble & Land	Industrial L-R	17.00
39	Dominion Ind	Industrial A-D	17.00
40	P & P	Industrial L-R	17.00
41	Volvo	Industrial L-R	17.00
42	Coatite	Chemicals/Pet	17.00
43	Wade Patis	Industrial S-Z	17.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS						
Fund	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

UNDATED						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

INDEX-LINKED						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)  
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end August 12. Contango day August 15. Settlement day August 22.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

BREWERIES						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

BUILDING, ROADS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

FINANCE, LAND						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

FINANCIAL TRUSTS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

FOODS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

DRAPERY, STORES						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

HOTELS, CATERERS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

INDUSTRIALS A-D						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

E-K						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

L-R						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

S-Z						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

OILS, GAS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

SHOES, LEATHER						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

TEXTILES						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

TOBACCO						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

INSURANCE						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

LEISURE						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

MINING						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

SHIPPING						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

OILS, GAS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

SHOES, LEATHER						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

TEXTILES						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

OVERSEAS TRADERS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

PROPERTY						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

SHIPPING						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

OILS, GAS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

SHOES, LEATHER						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

TEXTILES						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

TOBACCO						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

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Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

OVERSEAS TRADERS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

PROPERTY						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

SHIPPING						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

OILS, GAS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

SHOES, LEATHER						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

TEXTILES						
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Change	Div	Yield

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## GOLF: DIBNAH TAKEN TO SECOND EXTRA HOLE OF SUDDEN DEATH BEFORE WINNING BRITISH WOMEN'S OPEN

By Mitchell Phillips

Golf Correspondent

Cordine Dibnah won the British Women's Open at Llandudno yesterday, though not with the ease that her Australian compatriot, Greg Norman, won the men's equivalent two years ago.

Miss Dibnah, aged 26 last Friday, had to go to a sudden-death finish before overcoming Sally Little, the South African-born naturalized American, at the second extra hole with a putt of six feet for a birdie and a first prize of £15,000.

She also was required to regroup halfway down the fairway at the first extra hole after discovering that her wayward drive had struck a spectator. The force of the ball broke his nose and his glasses.

"I was very concerned and I blocked my next shot with a four-iron," Miss Dibnah said. "Even so, she halved that hole and won at the next with the assistance of a lovely approach with an eight-iron."

Her victory provided further cause for Charlie Epp, the Brisbane teacher, to celebrate, as he has coached both Norman and Miss Dibnah. Her success came after a final round of 75 for a one-under-par aggregate of 295, which Miss Little, courtesy of birdies at the 16th and 17th holes, matched with a 76 despite an indifferent outward half. Miss Little emphasized her courage by getting up and down —

Card of course					
Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	390	4	11	361	4
2	344	4	12	445	5
3	151	3	13	183	3
4	159	3	14	458	5
5	424	5	15	351	4
6	130	3	16	425	5
7	280	4	17	330	4
8	423	5	18	420	5
Out 2,877		37	In 3,130	37	
Total parages: 6,107			Par: 74		

holing from 12 feet — from a bunker at the last, where Miss Dibnah chipped and putted from the back of the green.

Those saves ended a valiant attempt by Alison Nicholas to retain her title. She had seven birdies in her last 11 holes for a score of 72, giving her a total of 296, which was only one shot too many.

Kathryn Imlie will not know until later this week whether she is in the Scotland team for the home international. She does, however, know that she has a bright future when she elects to turn professional because, by scoring a 76, she earned a share of sixth place in her first appearance in a tournament of this nature.

The appalling pace of play, of which there has been widespread comment, must concern those whose responsibility is to promote the growth of the women's tour in Europe. On the evidence of this championship, it is not helping some of the professionals in terms of scoring. Eleven amateurs won through to the last day and

seven of them outscored the professionals with whom they played.

Laura Fairclough, aged 18, a winner of the Golf Foundation under-15 title in 1984, a year before becoming English girl champion, and Tina

Yarwood, of Haydock Park, each scored 73. Since only two professionals bettered their scores, Miss Fairclough and Miss Yarwood are to be congratulated along with Nicola Way, whose excellent 70 on Saturday helped her to

finish in a share for tenth place.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (British and Irish unless stated): 295: C. Dibnah (Aus), 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 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1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958



# No other choice but to dally over Dilley

By Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent

England's harassed cricket selectors yesterday stalled for 24 hours on the announcement of a replacement for the stricken Graham Dilley in Thursday's final Cornhill Test. The delay is hardly surprising — merely symptomatic of a chronic shortage of candidates for the critical bowling places.

Dilley withdrew from the party only hours after it had been announced a day earlier than is traditional, on Saturday morning. His recurring knee injury probably means that he will play no more Test cricket this summer and, if surgery is considered essen-

tial, he could also miss the winter tour to India.

This was the worst possible news for England, who have ambitiously rebuilt their batting line-up with exciting young talent but have no such options available in the bowling department.

Dilley, with 15 wickets in this series at 26 runs apiece, was not only the prime strike bowler, he is the only automatic selection in the side other than Gooch and Lamb. Without him, the attack, on potentially the best pitch of the summer, is frighteningly thin: Small, Foster, Pringle, Childs and Crowder between them have taken only 16 wickets in the series at 40 runs each.

The possible deputies for Dilley are alarmingly few. It would be insulting Leicestershire if DeFreitas was named, a week after being dropped by his county for "not trying" as a reaction to England omission. Thomas has taken too few wickets, Jarvis is not fit and Agnew, unfortunely ignored early in the season, has lost his best form.

Not that this last condition seems a big drawback to selection, if one cites the inclusion of Small after a month in which he has bowled so inadequately for Warwickshire that he was left out of the recent match with Sri Lanka in order to try to rediscover his rhythm in the nets. Before being deservedly

## England 13

	Age	Tests
C S Cowdrey (Kent, capt.)	35	68
G A Gooch (Essex)	28	1
T S Curtis (Worce)	28	28
K J Barnett (Derbyshire)	28	28
A J Lamb (Nottingham)	25	0
M P Maynard (Gloucestershire)	24	24
R A Smith (Hampshire)	24	24
C J Richards (Surrey)	24	24
D R Pringle (Essex)	23	17
N A Foster (Essex)	22	22
G R Dilley (Worce)	22	22
G C Small (Warwickshire)	22	1
J H Childs (Essex)	21	1

picked for the second Test at Lord's, Small had taken 30 first-class wickets for Warwickshire this season at under 10 runs apiece. Since that game, and until his selection on Friday, his 10 further wickets had cost 380 runs. If the selectors were not

aware of this it was an extraordinary oversight. If they were, it was a remarkable selection.

But if they have got it wrong it is easy to see why they struggled to come up with a more appropriate name. Saturday's championship cricket was a typical guide to the problems besetting team selection. The batting stars were the Australian, Waugh, and the brilliant Hick, who will not be qualified for England until 1991. The bowling stars were Merrick and Stephenson, both West Indians — one banned by his country, one not considered good enough.

While all this was going on, four of England's main

bowlers for the Oval Test were in action. Their combined figures were four wickets for 233.

At least the batting had a look of vibrant adventure about it. No one who has watched cricket this year will begrudge the inclusion of Barnett and Maynard, as both played positively and consistently. My one doubt is that Barnett must bat in the crucial position of No. 3, where England have tried four players this summer. Like all the others, Barnett does not bat at three for his county. Bailey, to my mind, is the unfortunate omission but not nearly as unfortunate as Russell.

If there are any cricket

followers outside the selection panel who do not believe that Russell should be keeping wicket for England, I have yet to meet them. He must by now be wondering what he has done to be so scandalously overlooked for so long. Jack Richards, who keeps him out again, confesses to being "a bit surprised". That may be an understatement.

The choice of Childs, as the only spinner, has the merit of consistency, if nothing else. I would much rather have seen a progressive slow bowler, such as Folley, encouraged at this stage rather than a veteran who is far from a regular in his county side.

## Ballesteros parts company with clubs in victory

From Patricia Davies, Drottningholm

Wearing his lucky blue trousers and using clubs that he intends to pension off at auction shortly, Severiano Ballesteros followed his Open triumph by adding a third Scandinavian Enterprise Open to his honours board yesterday.

He won by a comfortable five shots from Gerry Taylor, of Australia, finishing with a 67, five under par, that left him on 270, 18 under, and added £41,660 to earnings in Europe which top £200,000 this season, increasing his lead over Nick Faldo at the top of the Volvo Order of Merit.

Ballesteros, who said that he feels most comfortable in blue and thinks of it as a lucky colour — hence his Open outfit on the last day at Lytham — may not change his colour scheme but will be using a different set of clubs on his next outing, the United States PGA championship in Oklahoma in ten days' time.

"I won the Open and the Westchester Classic with them but the irons are four years old," he explained. "The grooves are beginning to wear away. When I think of a suitable cause, I'll auction them. I think they'll be worth big money, perhaps £10,000."

"They are magic clubs, someone could lower their handicap very quickly with them," he added, smiling mischievously, the picture of a contented man who would, however, be hanging on to his

woods and his putter, which brought him seven birdies yesterday.

Ballesteros started out one shot behind David J Russell, the third-round leader, who had a hole-in-one at the sixth on Saturday and won himself 15 tons of the metal from a local manufacturer but had it translated into a cheque for £9,000 — which is more easily transportable. They both had birdie threes at the first but Russell might have guessed it was not going to be his day if he had noticed that his caddy was wearing a bib with "Russel" on it, a mistake

More golf, page 31

mirrored on one of the portable scoreboards.

Whichever way his name was spelled, Russell started his slide down the leader board at the fourth, where his chip from the back of the green thought about staying on the top tier, near the pin, but then rolled agonizingly down the slope and brought about a bogey five.

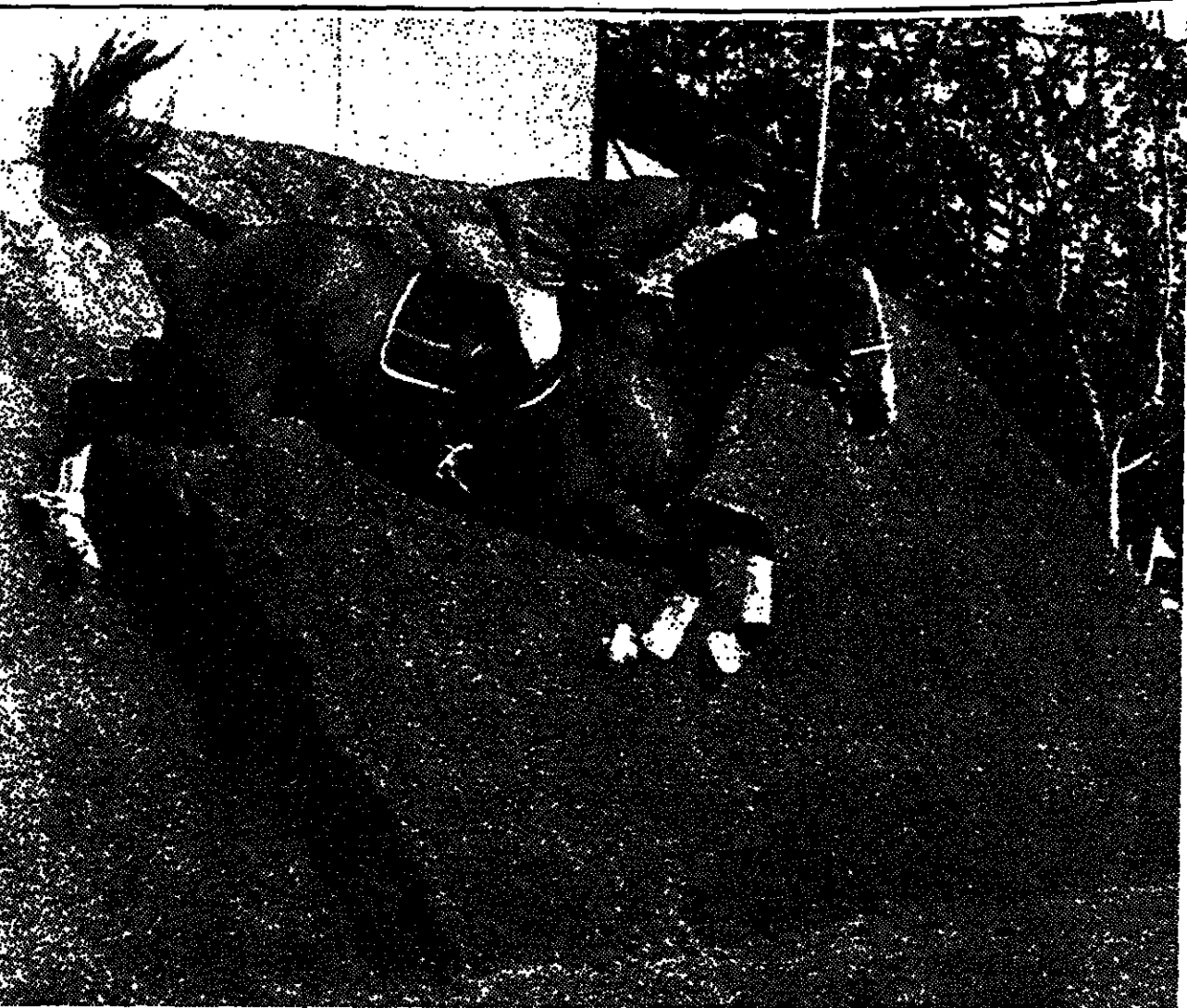
Ballesteros had a par to draw level, at 14 under par, then took the lead when Russell missed from no more than two feet at the next to drop another shot. Ballesteros had birdies at the sixth and seventh, where the sorry Russell, whose chipping and putting let him down badly, had two more bogeys and that, effectively, was that.

No one else was making any sort of challenge, something that Ballesteros admitted surprised him and made his task easier than he expected. The Australian challenge had been halted on Saturday when only Gerry Taylor, of the top contenders, broke par, but he and his compatriots Peter Senior and Graham Marsh redeemed themselves somewhat to finish second and tied for third.

Taylor's 69 gained him second place while Senior had a erratic 70 and Marsh a 67 — ten shots better than his dismal 77 in the third round — to end on 276, 12 under.

Taylor moved to within two shots of Ballesteros, but the Spaniard produced three consecutive birdies from the 12th to put himself safely out of range at 18 under par. At that point the tour officials with a flight to catch could stop worrying that a play-off might delay them and start worrying about the traffic instead.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (69 and Ireland unless stated): 270: S Ballesteros (Sp), 67, 70, 66, 67, 270: G Taylor (Aus), 67, 68, 71, 68, 276: P Senior (Aus), 68, 72, 70: G Marsh (Aus), 68, 69, 69, 71: G Kyri Haa (Fin), 68, 69, 69, 71: G Brand (Scot), 69, 69, 69, 72: S Ballesteros (Sp), 68, 69, 69, 72: C Perry (Aus), 64, 69, 73, 72: P McIlwain (Aus), 66, 68, 70, 67: H Raftery, 70, 68, 72, 69: B Ode (Aus), 73, 67, 69, 70: D J Russell, 68, 66, 77, 288: M Jensen, 68, 74, 69, 77: C Curry, 71, 69: S McAlister, 72, 70, 70: J Morgan, 69, 69, 71, 71: 281: J Macgregor, 72, 70: S Torrance, 70, 71, 71, 68: J Farnwick (Irel), 71, 69, 70, 71: M Macdonald (Irel), 71, 69, 72, 73, 71: M Persson (Swe), 71, 66, 72, 72



Four-pointed landing: Apollo, piloted by Skelton, clears the bank on his flightpath to victory (Photograph: John Williams)

## Coe inside Olympic 1,500 time

From Michael Coleman  
Jona, Switzerland

Sebastian Coe came down from his high-altitude training in St Moritz yesterday and ran his first 1,500 metres for two years at the little-known lakeside village of Jona. His time of 3min 37.4sec, in what proved a time trial after two laps, was well inside the Olympic qualifying time of 3:38.50, though not perhaps the electrifying performance some had hoped for.

"Anybody get the time?" he gasped as he crossed the line. "As long as it's inside 38 I'm happy." Assured it was so, he replied: "Fine, that's lovely," and retired to the cool of the dressing room.

Eleven had started the race but after the pacemaker, Sebastian Wschinski had peeled off after an opening lap of 57sec, it was left to Peter Wirtz, already Olympic qualified, to take up the pace. At 800 metres, it was 1:55, then a lap of just outside 60sec, with Coe all alone at the bell in 2:39.

In the blazing evening sun, the Olympic champion had only his shadow as company on the lonely last lap, which to rhythmic clapping from the polite 800-odd local club crowd, he covered in 58 seconds.

Asked why he had chosen to race at Jona, Coe said: "Isn't it beautiful here? It's just that bit different. We're going to give it all we've got and it won't end on September 11. We will be going back to court. It's a matter of principle. Monohulls just do not race multihulls in a match race."

More yachting, page 30

## Apollo's mission over after tense countdown

By Jenny MacArthur

A change of tactics with his top horse, Apollo, brought Nick Skelton his second Silk Cut Derby in successive years at Hickstead yesterday.

Skelton, a leading contender for the Olympic team, completed the only clear round in the competition on Mrs Linda Jones's 13-year-old gelding to win the £25,000 first prize outright — just as he did last year on the brilliant J Nick, who had to be put down two months ago after injuring himself while competing in France.

Seven riders shared equal second place on eight faults after a competition which fully lived up to its reputation for being the toughest show-jumping event in Europe.

The three-part, aptly named Devil's Dyke proved the most influential of the 16 fences and it was here that Skelton changed his tactics. Apollo, although second over the course at his first attempt in 1984, has faulted at this fence on each of his three previous outings.

"This time I decided to treat it like a speed class," Skelton said. "In previous years I've tried to jump in slowly and it didn't work. This time I thought I can't do worse than make him gallop at it." It paid off handsomely, with Apollo jumping cleanly through the three elements to record only the 25th clear round in the derby's 27-year-old history.

Skelton, who today drives Apollo to Ireland for the Dublin Horse Show, had a tense wait ("not good for the nerves" he said later) as he watched the next 20 riders go. John Whitaker (Next Gammont), Robert Smith (Boysie) and Peter Richardson (Rye Hill) were the three he feared most.

Whitaker, one of the joint seconds on his first horse, Next Hopscotch, had 11 faults with Next Gammont, three for time. Smith had a cricket score on Boysie, and Richardson, the last to go on Rye Hill, who was joint runner-up last year, looked threatening but collected four faults at the private-hedge oxer and, unluckily, at the last to join the six others in second place. These included Michael Whitaker on Owen Gregory, whose sprightly round belied his 20 years, and Joe Turi, whose two good rounds on Country Classics Kruger and Country Classics Vital can have done no harm to his powerful claim for an Olympic team place.

Although this was a depleted derby field — the Olympics having kept away most of the foreign riders — there was no shortage of drama. John Brown on G and A Sligo Supreme had to compete with the whirling of a police heli-

copter chasing a suspected car thief who was later arrested on the showground.

Annette Lewis, who made headlines in 1985 when her grey gelding, Tutin, leapt from the top of the 10R 6in derby bank, again had the crowd holding its breath when, riding the same horse, her rein broke before the last fence and Miss Lewis was carted twice round the arena as she attempted to control the horse.

Janet Hunter's Everest Lisnamarrow, a leading contender for the Olympic team, is "a lot better," according to Miss Hunter's trainer, Ted Edgar, after the injury he received to his near-fore in Friday's Silk Cut derby trial.

Edgar, who thinks the horse may have struck into himself while taking off at the water fence, says the injury does not look as serious as he at first suspected. He will not know for several days whether the 12-year-old gelding, Miss Hunter's only possible Olympic ride, will be fit enough for Seoul. The team is due to be announced on August 9.

SILK CUT DERBY: 1, Apollo (N Skelton), 6 equal 2, Country Classics Kruger (J Turi), Owen Gregory (M Whitaker), Next Hopscotch (J Whitaker), Next Warren Point (M Whitaker), Country Classics Vital (J Turi), Landsever Monsoon (G Greenwood), 8, Brown Group Rye (M P Richardson), 8, SILK CUT SPEED DERBY (Saturday): Everest Gmago (E J Mac), 2, Miffed Image (C Ward), 3, Jays Way (P Murphy).

## Declining Davies

The Welsh Rugby Union captain, Jonathan Davies, has rejected a record £200,000 pound offer to join the English Rugby League club, St Helens. Davies said he turned down the approach because there were still many challenges in British Rugby Union and, in addition, he was looking ahead to the British Lions' tour of Australia next year.

Davies' former international team colleague, David Bishop, signed a four-year contract with another Rugby League club, Hull Kingston Rovers, on Friday.

## Graf again

Hamburg (AP) — Steffi Graf, of West Germany, won the Virginia Slims women's tennis tournament yesterday with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Katerina Maleeva, of Bulgaria. Graf, who clinched her first Wimbledon title earlier this month, needed 86 minutes to dispatch Maleeva and gain her seventh tournament victory this year.

## Ski drama

The World and European water-ski racing champion, Steven Moore, clinched his fourth British title with a dramatic victory in the eighth and final race of the British championships at Whitstable, Kent, yesterday. Moore, aged 25, of Margate, won the race by 12 seconds and the championship by two seconds.

## Double act

Suzuka (AP) — The Australian, Kevin Magee, and the American, Wayne Rainey, rode their Yamaha YZF750 to victory yesterday in the Suzuka Eight-Hour Endurance Race, the second leg of the four-race 1988 World Endurance Championship.

## Lane named

Richard Lane has been named the Professional Golfers' Association's Trainee of the Year. Lane, aged 26, from the Midlands, once worked as a restaurant manager before turning to golf and is at present on a teaching assignment for 12 months in Vienna.

## Peace talk

Lodrone, Italy (Reuters) — The Argentinean footballer, Diego Maradona, yesterday publicly apologised to the Napoli manager, Ottavio Bianchi, a week after strongly criticising him.

## Australia threaten tit-for-tat

From a Correspondent  
Sydney

Australia have threatened to cancel the last match of their Rugby Union tour this autumn, against the Barbarians, unless the British Lions agree to play a joint Australia and New Zealand tour during their tour to Australia next year.

Joe French, the president of the Australian Rugby Football Union, said the matter will be discussed by his executive later this month.

French is incensed that the home unions have refused to play the joint Australian and New Zealand team, to be called the Anzac XV. He described their decision as "churlish".

The home unions advised the ARFU last Friday that the match with the Anzac XV was unacceptable as they regarded it as a fourth international match.

French pointed out that the Wallabies are scheduled to meet the Barbarians at Cardiff on the last match of the tour of England and Scotland before embarking on the Italian leg of the tour. He says Australia regards the Barbarian match as a third international on the British leg of the 13-match tour.

"We know that match is a third Test and we have accepted that. But that doesn't mean we can't change our minds," French said.

He was speaking at the official Bledisloe Cup series dinner, where he publicly appealed to John Kendall-Carpenter, of the Rugby Football Union, to take Australia's case back to the home unions.

Air commodore Bob Weighill, secretary to the four home unions, denied yesterday that there had been any refusal to play the Anzac match. "We have made it quite clear in our letter to the ARFU that we are prepared to play three matches of an international quality, that is, either two internationals against Australia and the Anzacs game, or three internationals," he said.

## Dates agreed for America's Cup

From Barry Pickthall, Honolulu

The America's Cup will be a three-race series off San Diego starting on September 7. These details, which have been disputed since last December, when the New York Supreme Court upheld New Zealand's challenge for this historic trophy against the San Diego Yacht Club, were finally agreed on at a meeting between the two sides in California over the weekend.

They meet again today to discuss other outstanding issues, which include New Zealand's opposition to American proposals to alter the rule governing fouls for the start of each race. Americans want to impose 720 degree penalty rules, allowing offenders to perform two complete turns after the starting signal, before resuming the race.

New Zealand fear this will favour the potentially faster American catamaran and have instead called for the traditional practice of instigating an independent protest hearing after each race to

judge transgressors, and decide on the possibility of disqualification.

The second race, scheduled to be run on September 9, leaves September 11 free, should a decision be necessary against New Zealand's larger but slower monohull.

Still smarting from a court ruling last week, that the match between Dennis Conner's 59ft catamaran and New Zealand's 123ft sloop must go ahead, Michael Fay, the Auckland-based syndicate head, said yesterday that win or lose, he will go back to court to decide the issue for the good of the Cup.

"Beating a catamaran with a monohull is going to be one heck of an uphill struggle," he said. "We're going to give it all we've got and it won't end on September 11. We will be going back to court. It's a matter of principle. Monohulls just do not race multihulls in a match race."

More yachting, page 30

## Bremner will miss the first eight matches

Kevin Bremner, the Brighton forward, will be out of action for eight weeks with a depressed fracture of the cheekbone, injured in the team's 3-1 win over Amadora in Portugal on Wednesday. He flew home and had an operation. He will miss the first eight matches of the season.

Bremner had a hernia operation at the end of last season and lost a brother in the recent Piper Alpha oil rig disaster. Scottish-born, he joined Brighton for £65,000 from Reading a year ago.

Aston Villa have reported a loss of £92,000 for last season, when they were promoted to the first division. Although the club made an operating profit of £10,000, bank charges and a deficit on transfer fees left Villa in the red

during Graham Taylor's first season as manager.

Taylor earned more than £65,000, while the club chairman, Doug Ellis, collected a salary of £40,000.

Scunthorpe United, who open the season at their new Glandford Park stadium, report that advance season-ticket sales have trebled from last season and are approaching the 25,000 mark. "It is most encouraging and business is still good," Don Rowing, secretary of the fourth division club, said.

Scunthorpe's ground will be opened with a game against a Football League XI on Sunday, August 14. Colin Douglas, Doncaster Rovers' former top scorer, has returned to Belle Vue from Rotherham United for £15,000.

END COLUMN

## Making meal of tee-time manners

By John Hennessey

The disqualification of Roger Roper, an international 20 times over, during the English Amateur championship which ended at Royal Birkdale on Saturday, throws up an important point about the position and authority of the starter.

Clause (c) in the Conditions of Play for the event seemed to be categorical and incapable of misinterpretation. It stated that: "Any competitor who is not present on the first tee when called to start shall be disqualified." The last three words are printed in bold type.

It does not say, however, nor can it, when is the proper time to start. Is it the time shown on the draw sheet — 10.28 a.m. in Roper's case — or is it the time when the players in the match in front have hit their second shots so that the following match may proceed?

Beyond that, since Roper did not have the honour, is it after his opponent, David Gibson, had teed-off and the moment had come for him to play his first shot?

The apparent discrepancy between the evidence of Roper and the Birkdale club's head starter, Jim Hardman, can only be reconciled if it is accepted that Roper was at the tee but had not made himself known because of the presence on the fairway, as the player maintains, of the preceding match?

Roper argues that he had been to the tee, lodged his bag there, and returned to his car, standing no more than 25 yards away, to get some golf balls.

## Urgent need for official timing

It must have been during this short period that the starter called his name, because Roper had the determined supporting testimony of Andrew Pritchard, another Yorkshire player, that he was certainly at the tee watching the match in front clear the fairway.

Hardman's case was supported by Paul Fisher, the chairman of the championship committee. Fisher reports that he was informed over the walkie-talkie system at 10.20 that Roper had not answered his summons and at 10.22 that the player had now presented himself. By now Fisher was speeding to the tee in his buggy. On arrival at the tee he called the starter into discussion with Roper and his opponent and in the light of what all three had to say took the decision to disqualify.

The whole business is bedevilled on these occasions by the absence of any official timing apparatus. The general tendency at Birkdale seemed to be to rely on the clubhouse clock which, by general consent, was running a minute or two too fast. That opened the way to further discussion.

In any case, there is nothing in the rules to say that a player must be on the tee at the time stated. Nor, of course, can there be. It is common enough for matches to go off late, particularly in match-play when players have to give way to a match continuing beyond the 18th hole.

## Previous case of disqualification

It may be recalled that an American player was disqualified from the British Amateur championship at the Fyle and Kenfig Club in May in similar circumstances, but with this precise distinction. He was not asked to make himself known in advance. Not until the moment had come for him to tee-off was his name called; a moment, unfortunately, when he was still walking back to the tee after having had a sudden call to the clubhouse lavatory.

In match-play, that moment would, in Roper's case, have been after his opponent had struck, since Gibson had had the honour.

Unlike the British Amateur championship and other important events, there is no public address system on the first tee for the English championship, a lapse which would certainly have avoided last week's embarrassment.

That, and a clock showing the earliest (not the precise) time a player may be called to play, would seem to be essential pieces of equipment for an event like this. One member of the championship committee explained their absence by the fact that the English Golf Union could not afford to provide such equipment. Last week suggests that they can not afford not to provide it.